

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

AND

Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

No. 1923.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1853.

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OWEN'S COLLEGE, MANCHESTER.—To PROFESSORS and Others.—The Trustees of Owen's College are desirous of receiving proposals from gentlemen qualified and willing to undertake the office of PROFESSOR OF ANCIENT and MODERN HISTORY in the College.

The Trustees propose the allowance of the yearly salary of £100, in addition to a proportion of the Fees to be received from the students attending the class.

The gentleman appointed to the above office will be required to devote to the duties thereof so much of his attention as may be deemed necessary for the efficient instruction of the students, including the delivery of two or more Class Lectures weekly during the session, which extends from the beginning of October to the end of June in each year.

It is desirable that the gentleman appointed should enter upon the duties of the office as soon as possible after the Christmas recess, which will terminate about the 2nd day of January, 1854.

It is requested that applications may be accompanied by testimonials or references, and that each gentleman applying will state his age and general qualifications.

Communications addressed to "The Trustees of Owen's College," under cover to Messrs. BARKER and ASTON, Solicitors, Manchester, and received not later than the 5th day of December next, will be duly attended to, and further information afforded, if required.

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19th Nov. 1853.

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Fee for each Course, including use of Apparatus, Three Guineas.

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Instead of the Geneva route, the audience will be conducted to Chamouni by the Bernese Oberland, and the journey will be illustrated by the following views:—The Rhine bridge at Jissie, Zurich, the Rigi Kuhn Hotel, looking towards the Roseberg, the Lake of Lucerne, Interlaken, the Jung Frau, and the Eigers, as seen from the Wengern Alp Inn. The Second Part will comprise the Ascent of Mont Blanc, as before, with the addition of a new general view of Chamouni and the Mont Blanc range. And the Third Part will represent the Pass of the Simplon, from Martigny to the Lago Maggiore, with the following views:—1. Brig. 2. The Gantner Bridge and Gallery. 3. The village of Simplon at night, with the mail posts arriving. 4. The Gorge of Gondo. 5. The Pont de Crevola and Val d'Ossola. 6. The Isola Bella, on the Lago Maggiore.

The whole of the views have been painted under the direction of Mr. WILLIAM BEVERLEY. The entertainment will be given every Evening (except Saturday) at Eight o'clock, and Tuesday and Saturday Afternoons, during the winter months, at Two. The Doors will be opened at Half-past Seven, and Half-past One. The prices of admission will remain the same as before. Stalls 3s. (these seats are numbered and reserved, and can be secured for any representation, without extra charge, at the Joy-Office, Egyptian Hall, every day between Eleven and Four), Area 2s. Gallery 1s. A private box for three persons, half-a-guinea. A private balcony for eight, 2s. It is respectfully announced that no bonnets will be allowed in the stalls. Programmes, containing every information can now be obtained at the Hall.

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SIR ARCHIBALD ALISON has been somewhat less ambitious and more successful in his second volume. He confines himself more to the narration of matters of fact, in which he excels, and attempts less to offer general disquisitions and philosophical reflections, in which he usually fails. According to the plan of the work, separate chapters are devoted to different countries, and the volume opens with an account of the state of Spain and Italy from the peace of 1814 to the revolutionary year of 1820. In the next chapter a sketch is given of the history of Russia and Poland, from the Congress of Vienna to the accession of Nicholas in 1825. The story of French politics is then resumed, and occupies the chief part of the latter half of the volume, which closes with the death of Louis XVIII. A separate chapter is allotted to the domestic history of England "from the passing of the Currency Act of 1819 to the death of Londonderry in 1822," but the part taken in foreign affairs by the British government after the Congress of Verona, is included in the narrative of continental history. The promised sketches of European science and literature are wisely deferred, and we trust that the author sees the need of greater study and care being bestowed on this part of his subject. The most meagre and least satisfactory chapter in the previous volume was that which was entitled "An Account of the Progress of Literature, Science, the Arts, and Manners, in Great Britain, after the Peace."

The account of Russia will be read with peculiar interest at the present time. Of its internal condition, and its history from the peace of 1815 to the accession of Nicholas in 1825, a concise and comprehensive sketch is given. Sir Archibald Alison views with alarm the aggressive power of Russia, and thus speaks of her future destiny:—

"She is probably not intended to shine in the career of civilization. Her sons will not, at least for long, rival the hearts of Italy or the chivalry of France, the intellect of England or the imagination of Germany. There will be no Shakespeares or Miltons, no Racines or Corneilles, no Tassos or Raphaels, no Schillers or Goethes, amidst the countless millions of her boundless territory; but there may be—there will be—an Alexander, an Attila, a Timour. Literature, science, the arts, are the efflorescence of civilization; but in the moral, not less than the physical world, efflorescence is succeeded by decline, the riches of the harvest border on the decay of autumn. There is a winter in nations as well as in seasons; the vulture and the eagle are required to cleanse the moral not less than the physical world. If the glories of civilization are denied to Russia, she is saved from its corruption; if she does not exhibit the beauties of summer, she is not stained by its consequent decay. Hardened by suffering, inured to privation, compelled to struggle eternally with the severities of climate, the difficulties of space, the energy of the human character is preserved entire amidst her ice and snows. From thence, as from the glaciers of the Alps, the destroying but purifying streams descend upon the plenty of the vales beneath. Russia will evidently conquer Turkey, and plant her eagles on the dome of St. Sophia: she will do what the Crusaders failed in doing—she will rescue the Holy Shrines from the hands of the Infidels. But that, though an im-

portant part, is not the whole of her destiny. Still, when the Cross is seen triumphant over the wide expanse of the Lower Empire, will her millions remain in their snowy deserts, invigorated by necessity, hardened by suffering, panting for conquest. She is never destined to be civilized, save for the purposes of war; but she is destined to do what intellect and peace can never do. Scythia will for ever remain what it has been from the earliest times—the storehouse of nations, the scourge of vicious civilization."

After describing the successive acquisitions of territory under the Czar Alexander, and especially the annexation of Poland in 1815, the historian proceeds:—

"Strengthened by this great accession of power and territory, which brought their advanced posts into the heart of Europe, within a hundred and eighty miles both of Vienna and Berlin, RUSSIA now assumed the place which she has ever since maintained as the undisputed arbiter of eastern Europe. Happy if she does not also become the mistress of the west, and the endless divisions of its aspiring inhabitants are not in the end extinguished by the unity of her advancing power. Great as are the physical resources of Russia, and rapidly as they have recently increased her influence, the prestige of her name, the dread of her strength, have increased in a still greater proportion. Men looked with a sort of superstitious awe on an empire which had never receded for centuries—which, secured in rear by the snows of the polar circle, had stretched its mighty arms almost to the torrid zone; which numbered the Vistula, the Amour, the Danube, and the Euphrates among its frontier streams, and already boasted of possessing a seventh of the habitable globe within its dominions. Nor had the events of recent times weakened this undefined impression; Napoleon's words have proved true, that Russia was backed 'by two invincible allies, time and space;' foreign assault was hopeless against a state which had repelled the invasion of five hundred thousand men; and no empire, how strong soever, seemed capable of withstanding a power which, beginning its career of victory with the burning of Moscow, had terminated it by the capture of Paris.

"What has augmented in the most remarkable degree this moral influence, is the prudence and wisdom with which it has been exercised. Never impelled by senseless ambition on the part of its rulers, or frantic passions among its people, the policy of Russia for two centuries has been eminently moderate and judicious. Its rulers are constantly actuated by the lust of conquest, but they never precipitate the moment of attack; conscious of their own strength, they await calmly the moment of action, and then appear with decisive effect. Like a great man in the conduct of life, they are never impelled by the thirst for immediate display which is the torment and bane of little minds, but are satisfied to appear when circumstances call them forth, aware that no effort will then be required to prove their superiority. Their conquests how great soever, seem all to have been the result of necessity; constantly, in reality, aggressive, they have almost always appeared, in serious warfare, on the defensive. The conquest of Finland in 1808, the result of the treaty of Tilsit, is the only one for the last century in which its cabinet was avowedly and ostensibly the aggressors. While this prudent policy disarms their neighbours, and induces them to rely on the supposed moderation and magnanimity of the government, it adds immensely to their own strength when the moment of action has arrived. Every interval of peace is attended by a rapid growth of their internal resources, and its apparent leisure is sedulously improved by the government in preparing the means of future conquest."

Napoleon, at St. Helena, is reported by O'Meara to have said, "In the course of a few years Russia will have Constantinople, the greatest part of Turkey, and all Greece. This I hold to be as certain as if it had already

taken place. The only hypothesis that France and England may ever be allied with sincerity will be to prevent this. But even this alliance will not avail. France, England, and Prussia united cannot prevent it." The whole passage, as presented in O'Meara's 'Voice from St. Helena,' is very striking, and the warnings of Napoleon as to the consequences of Russia reaching the Mediterranean, and threatening the English empire in India, are beginning to appear more than idle surmises. Long before the present Russo-Turkish difficulties, the Czar Nicholas said, as reported by Alison from Schnitzler, "I do not wish Constantinople, my empire is already too large; but I know that I or my successors must have it; you might as well arrest a stream in its descent from a mountain, as the Russians in their advance to the Hellespont." This language was but an echo of what had been often said by his predecessors. His brother had received the name of Constantine in the hope of fulfilling the prophecy, that "a Constantine had founded Constantinople, a Constantine had lost it, and a Constantine would regain it." The Empress Catherine proclaimed this as the object of her ambition; and Peter the Great himself used to say that Constantinople would be to the south of the empire what his new city on the Neva would be to the north. In reviewing Mr. Finlay's work on the Byzantine Empire (*ante*, 783), we lately quoted from Gibbon an older and still more remarkable prophecy, in which the future empire of Byzantium was predicted for the Russians centuries before there appeared probability of its fulfilment. To England the threatened danger in the East may prove of more vital moment. Napoleon, in the same conversation, said, "If Russia marches an army of 70,000 good soldiers, which to her is nothing, and 100,000 *canaille*, cossacks and others, England loses India." After describing the regular military force of Russia, which could afford about half a million of men for foreign service, the Cossacks are thus referred to by Sir Archibald Alison:—

"They constantly furnish 100,000 men, distributed in 164 regiments, to the imperial forces. So strong, however, is the military spirit among them, and so thoroughly are they all trained from infancy to the duties of horsemanship, that if summoned to his standard, they could easily furnish double this force, either for the defence of the country or the purposes of aggressive warfare. Glory, plunder, wine, and women, form irresistible attractions, which impel the entire nation into the career of conquest. It is their immense bodies of horse, more nearly resembling the hordes of Timour or Genghis Khan than the regular armies of western Europe, which constitute the real strength of the Czar; and as their predatory and roving habits never decline, and cannot do so from the nature of the country which they inhabit, while their numbers are constantly and rapidly increasing, it is easy to foresee how formidable they must ere long become to the liberties of the other states of Christendom."

The safety of England, in case of war, will lie in her naval superiority, though even on the sea the power of Russia may come to be formidable, since her fleets now consist of thirty ships of the line and twenty-two frigates in the Baltic, and sixteen ships of the line and twelve frigates in the Black Sea, with above six thousand guns. To Sir Archibald Alison's account, which is compiled from good authorities, we must refer for many financial and statistical details, with notices of the government, institutions, and internal condition of the Russian Empire:—

"The physical circumstances of Russia are such as to justify, in a great degree, these anticipations. Its population in Europe consisted in 1850 of 62,088,000 souls, and in Asia of 4,638,000 more; in all, 67,247,000, and including the army, 68,000,000. It is now (1853) not less than 70,000,000. Of this immense mass no less than 60,500,000 are the inhabitants of the country, and engaged in cultivation, and only 5,388,000 the dwellers in towns, and engaged in their industrial pursuits, the remainder being nomads, or in the army. This enormous proportion of the cultivators to the other classes of society—twelve to one—at once indicates the rude and infantine state of civilisation of the immense majority of the inhabitants, and demonstrates in the clearest manner the utter groundlessness of those apprehensions regarding the increasing difficulty of raising subsistence for the increasing numbers of mankind in the later stages of society, which in the early part of this century took such general hold of the minds of men. For while, in the immense and fertile plains of Russia, twelve cultivators only raise food for themselves and their families and one inhabitant of towns, and perhaps an equal number of consumers in foreign states—that is, six cultivators feed themselves and one other member of society—in Great Britain, by the census of 1841, the number of persons engaged in the cultivation of the soil was to the remaining classes of society as one to seven nearly; and yet the nation was self-supporting. In other words, the power of labour in raising food was above forty times greater, in proportion to the population in the old and densely-peopled, than the young and thinly-peopled state. The same truth has been exemplified in America, where, by the census of 1841, the cultivators over the whole Union are to the other classes of society as four, and beyond the Alleghany Mountains as eight to one; facts which demonstrate that so far from population, as Mr. Malthus supposes, pressing in the later stages of society on subsistence, subsistence is daily acquiring a greater and more decisive ascendancy over population.

"The rapidity with which this immense body of men increases in numbers is as important in a political point of view as it is formidable to the rest of Europe. The annual present addition to the population has been from 1840 to 1850, as one to one hundred, and that notwithstanding the fearful ravages of the cholera, which in 1847 caused a decrease of 296,000. This average increase will cause a duplication of the population in seventy years, being as nearly as possible the rate of increase in the British empire for thirty years prior to 1846; since that time the prodigious drain of the emigration, which has now reached the enormous amount of 365,000 a-year, has occasioned an annual decline, probably only temporary, of from 200,000 to 250,000. It is greater than that of any other state in Europe, Prussia alone excepted, which is increasing at such a rate as to double in fifty-two years; but far from equalling that of the United States of America, which for two centuries has regularly doubled its inhabitants every twenty-four years, aided, it is true, by a vast immigration from Europe, which has latterly risen to the enormous amount of 500,000 a-year.

"But the formidable nature of this increase, which, if it remains unchecked, will bring Russia, in seventy years, to have 140,000,000 of inhabitants, or about half of the whole population of Europe at this time, which is estimated at 280,000,000, arises from the vast and almost boundless room which exists in its immense possessions for future augmentation. Such is the extent of its territory, that, great as its population is, it is at the rate less than 30 the square mile for Russia in Europe, while in Great Britain it is at the rate of 220, and in France of 171. If Russia in Europe were peopled at the rate of Great Britain and Ireland, it would contain 500,000,000 souls—a number by no means impossible, if the vast extent of waste land in the Highlands of Scotland, and the mountains of Cumberland and Wales, not less sterile than the fir forests of the north of Russia, is taken into account. Its entire

superficies is 2,120,000 square geographical miles, while that of Great Britain and Ireland is 120,340; that of France, 207,252; that of Austria, 257,880; that of Prussia, 107,958; facts which, even more than its present number of inhabitants, demonstrate the prodigious capabilities which it contains, and the destinies to which it is ultimately called.

"What renders a people, advancing at such a rate, and possessed of such resources, in a peculiar manner formidable, is the unity of purpose and feeling by which the whole of the immense mass is animated. It is a common opinion in western Europe that a people inhabiting so vast and varied a territory cannot by possibility remain united, and that Russia broken up, as it must ere long be, into a number of separate dominions, will cease to be formidable to the other powers of Europe. There never was a greater mistake. To reason thus is to fall into the usual error of supposing that all mankind are placed in the same circumstances, and actuated by the same desires. There have been many insurrections and revolts in Russia, but none which ever pointed in the most remote degree either to a change in the form of government, or to a separation of one part of the country from the other. It is in its Polish conquests alone that this passion has been felt. Even when the Russians have appeared in revolt, as they have often done, it was ever in obedience to the impulse of loyalty: they combated the Czar in the name of another Czar, not knowing which was the right one, as the Scotch Highlanders did the Hanoverian family in the name of the Stuarts. The principle of cohesion is much stronger in Russia than it is in the British dominions, infinitely more so than in the United States of America. England and France may be subjugated, or broken into separate states, before the integrity of Russia is threatened; and many rival republics will be contending for the superiority on the Transatlantic plains, while the Muscovites are still slumbering in conscious strength and patient expectation under the sceptre of the Czar.

"The cause of this remarkable, and, to the other states of Europe, most formidable unity of feeling in the Russian dominions is to be found, in the first place, as that of all great national peculiarities is, in the original character and disposition of the race. The Russians are not, it is true, encamped on the plains of Scythia as the Turks have been for four centuries on those of the Byzantine Empire; they have taken root in the soil, they constitute its entire inhabitants, and are now devotedly attached to it by the possession of its surface and the labours of agriculture. But they are not on that account less Oriental in their ideas, feelings, and habits; on the contrary, it is that very circumstance, joined to their agricultural pursuits, which renders them so formidable. They unite the devotion and singleness of purpose of Asia to the industry and material resources of Europe. It is incorrect to say that the Russians, like the inhabitants of England or France, are generally loyal, and only occasionally seized with the disturbing passions of revolution or religion. They are loyal at all times, and in all places, and under all circumstances. They can never be brought to combat the Czar but in the name of the Czar. Devotion to the throne is so interwoven with the inmost feelings of their hearts that it has become part and parcel of their very being; it is as universal as the belief in God or a future state is in other countries. No disturbing or rival passions interfere with the unity of this feeling, which is sublime from its universality, and respectable from its disinterestedness. The Czar is at once their temporal sovereign, their supreme chief, whose will is law in all temporal affairs, and the head of their church, under the ægis of whose protection they alone hope for entrance into paradise in the world to come. The Patriarch of Constantinople is, properly speaking, the head of the Greek Church, but he is a foreigner, and at a distance; the real ecclesiastical authority resides in the Czar, who appoints all the bishops; and his brows are surrounded, in their eyes, at once with the diadem of the sultan and the tiara of the pontiff."

Of the strangely romantic personal history of the Emperor Alexander, a spirited sketch is given, with a very touching account of the closing years of his life, when reconciled to the wife of his early years. Of his successor, Nicholas, the present Czar, the following description is given:—

"Nicholas I., who, under such brilliant circumstances, and after the display of such invincible resolution, thus ascended the throne of Russia, and whom subsequent events have, in a manner, raised up to become an arbiter of Eastern Europe, is the greatest sovereign that that country has known since Peter the Great; in some respects he is greater than Peter himself. Not less energetic in character and ardent in improvement than his illustrious predecessor, he is more thoroughly national, and he has brought the nation forward more completely in the path which nature had pointed out for it. Peter was a Russian only in his despotism; his violence, his cruelty, his beneficence, his ardour for improvement, his patriotic ambition, were all borrowed from the states of Western Europe. As these states were greatly farther advanced in the career of civilisation than his was, his reforms were in great part premature, his improvements abortive, his refinements superficial. He aimed at doing by imperial, what so many ardent men have endeavoured to affect by democratic despotism—to engraft on one nation the institutions of another, and reap from the infancy of civilisation the fruits of its maturity. The attempt failed in his hands, as it has ever done in those of his republican imitators, as it will do in those of their successors, whether on the throne or in the tribune, to the end of the world. His civilisation was all external merely; it made a brilliant appearance, but it did not extend beneath the surface, and left untouched the strength and vitals of the state. He flattered himself he had civilised Russia, because he ruled by a police which governed it by fear, and an army which retained it in subjection by discipline.

"Nicholas, on the other hand, is essentially Russian in all his ideas. He is heart and soul patriotic, not merely in wish, but in spirit and thought. He wishes to improve and elevate his country, and he has done much to effect that noble object; but he desires to do so by developing, not changing the national spirit, by making it become a first Russia, not a second France or England. He has adopted the maxim of Montesquieu, that no nation ever attained to real greatness but by institutions in conformity with its spirit. He is neither led away by the thirst for sudden mechanical improvement, like Peter, nor the praises of philosophers, like Catherine, nor the visions of inexperienced philanthropy, like Alexander. He has not attempted to erect a capital in a pestilential marsh, and done so at the expense of a hundred thousand lives; nor has he dreamt of mystical regeneration with a visionary sybil, and made sovereigns put their hands to a holy alliance from her influence. He neither corresponds with French atheists nor English democrats; he despises the praises of the first, he braves the hostility of the last. His maxim is to take men as they are, and neither suppose them better nor worse. He is content to let Russia grow up in a Russian garb, animated with a Russian spirit, and moulded by Russian institutions, without the aid either of Parisian communism or British liberalism. The improvements he has effected in the government of his dominions have been vast, the triumphs with which his external policy have been attended unbounded; but they have all been achieved, not in imitation of, but in opposition to, the ideas of Western Europe. They bespeak, not less than his internal government, the national character of his policy. But if success is the test of worldly wisdom, he has not been far wrong in his system; for he has passed the Balkan, heretofore impervious to his predecessors; he has conquered Poland, converted the Euxine into a Russian lake, planted the cross on the bastions of Erivan, and opened through subdued Hungary a path to Constantinople.

"Nature has given him all the qualities fitted for such elevated destiny. A lofty stature and princely air give additional influence to a majestic countenance, in which the prevailing character is resolution, yet not unmixed with sweetness. Like Wellington, Cæsar, and many other of the greatest men recorded in history, his expression has become more intellectual as he advanced in years, and became exercised in the duties of sovereignty, instead of the stern routine of military discipline. Exemplary in all the relations of private life, a faithful husband, an affectionate father, he has exhibited in a brilliant court, and when surrounded by every temptation which life can offer, the simplicity and affections of patriarchal life. Yet he is not a perfect character. His virtues often border upon vices. His excellences are akin to defects. Deeply impressed with the responsibility of his situation, his firmness has sometimes become sternness, his sense of justice degenerated into severity. He knows how to distinguish the innocent from the guilty, and has often evinced a noble and magnanimous spirit in separating the one from the other, and showing oblivion of injury, even kindness to the relatives of those who had conspired against his throne and life. But towards the guilty themselves he has not been equally compassionate. He has not always let the passions of the contest pass away with its termination. He is an Alexander the Great in resolution, but not in magnanimity. He wants the last grace in the heroic character—he does not know how to forgive."

Although professing to give the history of Russia during the two years succeeding the peace of 1815, this chapter has evidently been written, and will certainly be read, in connexion with subsequent movements in European affairs, which are daily assuming greater prominence in general history. For this reason we have dwelt long on the chapter on Russia, and will pass in our next notice to the other topics of the volume. The account of France under Louis XVIII. has little of novelty or interest, especially to those who have read Lamartine's history of the same period. The closing paragraphs on Napoleon's last days at St. Helena, and the review of the discussions recently raised by the publication of Sir Hudson Lowe's Memoir, form the most attractive feature of this part of the volume, and our readers will not fail to sympathise with the spirit of the historian's reflections on his captivity, and the treatment to which he was subjected.

We must defer our notice of the history of the domestic affairs of Great Britain, and of the events of Western and Southern Europe. The partialities and prejudices of the historian have here ample scope, and even those who are in their principles most conservative, as that word is now commonly understood, will be astonished at the apparently unconscious gravity with which old fallacies are resuscitated, and idle theories seriously maintained. On the currency and the corn laws, on the evils of emigration, and the mischiefs of constitutional government, statements are made, the singularity of which is as remarkable as their unsoundness.

Of the peculiarities of Sir Archibald Alison's style we have freely spoken in reviewing the previous volume of this work (*ante*, p. 5). In simple narrative he is clear and forcible, but there is continual tendency to expand into that turgid magniloquence which Johnson happily described when he said, that "grand nonsense is insupportable." In literary embellishments Sir Archibald is also unfortunate. He has far too limited a store of classical quotations; they are introduced over and over again, and often inappropriately. Some of

these pet phrases we had noted down, but we refrain from giving them, trusting that the mention of the habit may induce carefulness in a matter offensive to good taste. But there is more than taste involved in the blunders committed in other quotations, as when the burning of Moscow is compared to that of Numantium, and when the hexameter line is written,—

"Una spes victis nullam sperare salutem,"

Instead of "Una salus victis."

Wild Scenes and Song Birds. By C. W. Webber. New York: Putnam and Co. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Co.

Of this pretty-pictured and complacent book we prefer the spirit to the letter. The author intends it "as a step towards the assimilation between the formalities of mere technical natural history and the diversified graces and uses of general literature," and whenever he confines himself to the simple narrative of what has come under his own observation, his stories are most graceful and pleasing. But our hunter-naturalist is also a little crotchety, and when he discourses with poetic fire about "nature and her harmonies," and about "the analogies and similitudes between birds and poets," we find too much of the wit and polish of an Elia wanting to enlist our sympathies. To bring to bear the graces of literature upon the observed phenomena of natural history, requires a tranquil and accomplished mind, which Mr. Webber has not; but we admire with all our heart his sincere love of his subject, and we recommend the perusal of his chapters, strange and desultory though they be, to all who will discriminate for themselves between what is eccentric and what is sound. There are some nice thoughts among the author's reveries on bird-singing and angel-singing, "the large circumference of whose utterances go spread and spreading tremulous among the girdling stars;" but they are too transcendently expressed, and, as our author is more at home in his simplicity than in his outpourings of emblematic mysteries, we will give our readers a taste of what we conceive to be the better part of his nature. The most delightful chapter in the book is one on 'Humming Birds,' which, however, are not 'Song Birds.' With the wonderful stuffed collection of Mr. Gould lately exhibited in the Zoological Gardens, we have come to be acquainted with all but the life of these tiny denizens of the New World. No one has ever yet succeeded in bringing one to England alive; and our readers will be interested in knowing something of their charmingly instinctive habits:—

"As a child, I always had a passion for the humming bird. It ever caused a thrill of delight when one of these glittering creatures, with its soft hum of flight, came out of repose all suddenly—hanging, a sapphire stilled upon the air—for here no wings are seen,—as, like a quick, bright thought, it darts, is still, and then away!

"The mystery of 'whence it cometh, and whither it goeth,' was a lovely and exciting one to me. How and where could a thing so delicate live in a rough, wintry world like this? How could the glory of its burnished plumes remain undimmed, that it thus shot forth arrows of light into my eyes, while all other things seemed slowly fading?

"Where could it renew its splendours? In what far bath of gems dissolved, dipping, come forth mailed in its varied shine? How could those tiny wings, whose soul-like motion no mortal eye

can follow, bear the frail sprite through beating tempests that are hurling the albatross, with mighty pinions, prone upon the wave; or that dash the sea-eagle, shrieking, against its eyrie-cliff? How speeds it straight and safe—the gem-arrow of the elfs?

"Could it be that the tiny birds lived only on the nectar of flowers? It seemed, surely, the fitting food for beauty so ethereal. But, then, it removed them so far from things of the earth, earthy—their home must surely be fairyland, and they coursers of the wind for Ariel to 'put a girdle round the earth,' if this be so. But, if there be no fairies, and these be only natural forces that propel it so, is nectar, or ambrosia even, food of the substance that could give the steely toughness to those hair-spring thews, whose sharp stroke cuts a resistless way through hurricanes!

"These, and a thousand such questions, thronged upon me in those innocent times, but my most eager and continued inquiries were—How did they come? Were they born so, all bright and ready? Or did they come like other birds? I could find other bird's nests and eggs, and I understood how they came; but I never could find a humming bird's nest.

"Years passed away, leaving me still unwearied, though my continued want of success might have made me what the world calls wiser. In the meantime I had, in poring over the time-stained volumes of the famous old 'Port-folio'—certainly the first, if not the ablest of American periodicals of this class—come across a most charmingly told account of the entire domestication of a family of humming birds, by a gentleman of New England, who managed to keep them for two years in his large conservatory.

"He had, by the merest accident, discovered the nest in a very large and heavy woodbine honeysuckle, which hung over the window of his sitting-room, and the idea at once occurred to him of gradually enticing the old birds into the room, which opened into the conservatory, and then transferring thither the nest with the young. The plan, after a great deal of patient dexterity, succeeded, and this lovely little family became his inmates and friends along with the flowers. The relation of this gentleman was sufficiently pleasing to enchant me—but there was not enough of the naturalist in it to satisfy me. We had great honeysuckles too; why did they not build there as well? Hundreds of times I had searched their intricacies with patient zeal, twig by twig, tendril by tendril; and this for years—yet there were hundreds around me all day! There was something in this I did not understand.

"At last, in the work of a French Naturalist of note, M. Valliant, I found the hint, that many of the smaller tropical birds, among them the Hummers, invariably built their nests, where the locality of feeding-grounds rendered it possible for them to make such a selection, upon the pensive limbs of those trees that hung far over running water, as their most dreaded enemies, the monkeys and snakes, were both very cautious of venturing out upon such insecure foothold to rob. This hint I accordingly treasured, and literally haunted the brooks, the creek and river sides in the spring months, watching with the ceaseless hope of catching one of the birds in the act of alighting on the nest, which I knew was my only chance. Still I found no success for years; but, I had gained one piece of information—namely, that at 11 o'clock A.M., and 5 P.M., if I stood still for a short time, I would see them go darting past, directly over the middle of the channel."

"Bird-nesting gave way to Euclid," says the author, "and idle strollings through the scented woods to scanning the *Bucolics*," but a few years afterwards the love of natural history returned, and with it the long wished-for capture of a living Humming Bird:—

"An accident, about this time, attracted my attention to humming birds in particular again. Entering the library one morning, I saw, to my delight, a humming bird fluttering against the upper part of a window, the lower sash of which

was raised. I advanced softly, but rapidly as possible, and let down the sash. I had been taught the necessity of such caution long ago, by a bitter experience, for out of more than a dozen I had attempted to catch in this very room—to which they were enticed by the vases of flowers within—I had not succeeded in keeping one alive beyond a moment or two after I had seized it—for, if startled too suddenly, ere there had been time enough for them to realize the deception of the glass, they invariably flew against it with such violence as to kill themselves;—thus my childish eagerness had always robbed me of what I most coveted, although it seemed already mine.

"This time, however, I succeeded in securing an uninjured captive, which, to my inexpressible delight, proved to be one of the ruby-throated species—the most splendid and diminutive that comes north of Florida. It immediately suggested itself to me that a mixture of two parts refined loaf-sugar, with one of fine honey, in ten of water, would make about the nearest approach to the nectar of flowers. While my sister ran to prepare it, I gradually opened my hand to look at my prisoner, and saw to my no little amusement as well as surprise, that it was actually 'playing possum'—feigning to be dead most skillfully! It lay on my open palm motionless for some minutes, during which I watched it in breathless curiosity. I saw it gradually open its bright little eyes to peep whether the way was clear, and then close them slowly as it caught my eye upon it; but, when the manufactured nectar came, and a drop was touched gently to the point of its bill, it came to life very suddenly, and, in a moment, was on its legs, drinking with eager gusto of the refreshing draught from a silver tea-spoon. When sated it refused to take more, and sat perched with the coolest self-composure on my finger, and plumed itself quite as artistically as if on its favourite spray. I was enchanted with the bold, innocent confidence with which it turned up its keen, black eye to survey us, as much as to say, 'Well, good folk—who are you!'

"Thus, in less than hour, this apparently tameless rider of the winds was perched, pleasantly chirping upon my finger, and received its food with edifying eagerness from my sister's hand. It seemed completely domesticated from the moment that a taste of its natural food reassured it, and left no room to doubt our being friends. By the next day, it would come from any part of either room—alight upon the side of a white China cup, containing the mixture, and drink eagerly with its long bill thrust into the very base, after the manner of the pigeons. It would alight on our fingers, and seem to talk with us, endearingly, in its soft chirps. Indeed, I never saw any creature so thoroughly tamed in so short a time before. This state of things continued some three weeks, when I observed it beginning to lose its vivacity. I resorted to every expedient I could think of; offered it small insects, &c., but with no avail; it would not touch them.

"We at length came to the melancholy conclusion, that we must either resign ourselves to see it die, or let it go. This last alternative cost my sister some bitter tears. We had made a delicate little cage for it, and had accustomed it to roosting and feeding in it while loose in the rooms, and I consoled her with the hope that perhaps it might return to the cage as usual, even when hung in the garden. The experiment was tried. The cage was hung in a lilac bush, and the moment the door was opened, the little fellow darted away out of sight. My heart sank within me, for I could not but fear that it was gone for ever, and my poor sister sobbed aloud. I comforted her as best I might, and though without any hope myself, endeavoured to fill her with it, and divert her grief by occupation. So we prepared a nice new cup of our nectar—hung the cage with flowers—left the door wide open, and the white cup invitingly conspicuous—then resting from our labours, withdrew a short distance to the foot of a tree, to watch the result. We waited for a whole hour, with straining eyes, and, becoming completely discouraged,

had arisen from the grass, and were turning to go, when my sister uttered a low exclamation—

"Whist! look, brother!"

"The little fellow was darting to and fro in front of his cage, as if confused for a moment by the flower drapery; but the white cup seemed to overcome his doubts very quickly, and, with fluttering hearts, we saw him settle upon the cup as of old, and while he drank, we rushed lightly forward on tiptoe to secure him."

The hunter-naturalist at length succeeded in finding a nest, and many are the pleasant anecdotes he gives of its little family contents:—

"The first thing on reaching the house, with our captives, was to try our nectar, of the home-made manufacture, upon the young strangers, who instantly paid us the compliment of recognising its merits in a hearty draught, which seemed to set them perfectly at ease with the world and with themselves. They now left the nest, and perched upon our fingers with the most lovely confidence, and we saw that they were actually full plumed—though I doubt if they had yet attempted to use their wings abroad. They seemed to take the sudden change in their surroundings with a most consummate people-of-the-world sort of air—just as if they had been taught to consider it as ungentle to look surprised or startled at anything, or to exhibit more than a very cool sort of curiosity. We were greatly amused at these aristocratic airs, and we were ourselves very curious to know what might chance to be the titles of our noble friends in their own principality of air. Much as they made of themselves, I thought our ruby-throat received them with a certain degree of *hauteur*, which was responded to with the most supercilious indifference at all consistent with perfect good breeding. A few days, however, sufficed to break down the icy crust of formality, and they began to appear most guardedly aware of each other's existence. In a few weeks we hung the cage out with open doors again—finding that all the birds were beginning to mope and look as if they were going to die, as had been the case with the ruby-breast several times before. He had always been relieved by letting him out; but, as he instantly disappeared, we could not discover what the antidote he sought might be.

"When we opened the cage this time, it was a bright summer morning just after sunrise. What was our surprise to see the ruby-throat, instead of darting away as usual, remain with the young ones, which had immediately sought sprays, as if feeling a little uncertain what to do with themselves. Scarlet flew round and round them; then he would dart off to a little distance in the garden and suspend himself on the wing for an instant, before what I at first could not perceive to be anything more than two bare twigs—then he would return and fly around them again, as if to show them how easy it was.

"The little bold fellows did not require long persuasion, but were soon launched on air again, and in a moment or so were using their wings—for all we could see—with about as much confidence and ease as Mr. Ruby-throat. They too commenced the same manoeuvres among the shrubbery, and as there were no flowers there, we were sadly puzzled to think what it was they were dipping at so eagerly, to the utter neglect of the many flowers, not one of which they appeared to notice. We moved closer to watch them to better advantage, and, in doing so, changed our relative position to the sun. At once the thing was revealed to me. I caught friend Ruby in the very act of abstracting a small spider, with the point of his long beak, from the centre of one of those beautiful circular webs of the garden spider, that so abounds throughout the South. The thing was done so daintily, that he did not stir the dew-drops which, now glittering in the golden sun, revealed the gossamer tracery all diamond-strung.

"Hah! we've got your secret, my friends!—Hah! ha, hah!"

"And we clapped and danced in triumph. Our presence did not disturb them in the least, and we

watched them catching spiders for half an hour. They frequently came within two feet of our faces, and we could distinctly see them pluck the little spider from the centre of its wheel where it lies, and swallow it entire. After this we let them out daily, and, although we watched them closely and with the most patient care, we never could see them touch the spiders again, until the usual interval of about a fortnight had elapsed, when they attacked them again as vigorously as ever—but the foray of one morning seemed to suffice. We also observed them carefully, to ascertain whether they ate any other insects than these spiders—but, although we brought them every variety of the smallest and most tender that we could find, they did not notice them at all—but if we would shut them up past the time, until they began to look drooping, and then bring one of those little spiders along with other small insects, they would snap up the spider soon enough, but pay no attention to the others.

"We were thoroughly convinced, after careful experiment upon two families of them, that they neither live entirely upon the nectar of flowers—as all the old naturalists supposed—nor upon various small insects in addition to the nectar, as Mr. Audubon asserts. The fact is, they can live no more beyond a certain time—about a fortnight—upon nectar alone, than they can upon air alone, nor do I believe that life could be preserved beyond a few days upon spiders alone. There is another rather curious observation we made, that so long as the white cup was not dry, for so long they did not condescend to notice the thousands of flowers by which they were surrounded. We used to starve them a little sometimes for fun, and then we would have to hide, for they would make such a row! if we appeared—flying close to our faces, pecking gently at our teeth and eyes, lighting on our hair and pecking at it, or on our shoulders pulling at it—until, sometimes, it was almost difficult to tell whether it was more amusing or annoying. At last they would go away with evident reluctance to the garden, and tear up about half the flowers they tried, and darting towards us the moment we appeared again with the magical white cup. Such was the spell it exercised upon them, that when any of our friends, who came visiting us, desired to see them when they were out and perched among the trees, either of us had only to walk into the yard, and holding up the white cup above our heads, imitate their own chirp to attract their notice, and in an instant one after another would come dipping down from above, and cluster round the rim. After a draught, which was always the first thing, they would sit and plume themselves, stopping every now and then to ask one of the strangers with their steady eyes, so like black diamonds—

"Who are you, pray? What'll you take?"

"Their movements were so like lightning, that though they would let you get your hand near enough for them to peck it, yet it was impossible to catch them. They would let us do it sometimes, but never a stranger.

"Now comes the, to me, most interesting portion of this narrative.

"Our charming little family remained with us on these pleasing terms until the middle of September, and then, as they began to exhibit the usual restlessness of migratory birds, the sad question of parting had to be met. What we had already seen of them, convinced me conclusively that there must have been something of romance in the story that had so enchanted me in the respectable pages of the sage Port-folio, during my fanciful childhood, and which so roundly asserted that the birds had been kept through two winters! Now it is barely possible said conservatory may have had a due supply of spiders, for of one thing I am very sure—that no Humming Bird could have been kept alive without them any more than gold fish could be kept alive in distilled water, in which all the animalculæ, which constitute their natural food, had been destroyed. We came, at last, to the conclusion that it would be selfish and abominably cruel of us to keep the delicate things

with us in the blustering north, to die of pining for the scented bowers of their fair sunny home. We let them out, and with many tears saw them dart away at once towards the south, as if they felt they had already tarried too long.

"We saw them but for an instant on the air, and our sweet pets were gone!

"It took us a long time to reconcile ourselves to the loneliness in which they left us, but our consolation was, that next spring I should find another nest, and they should be scarlet throats this time, and we should know better how to take care of them now, as we knew better how to find them from experience. Such a lovely family as we were going to have! We made a new and elegant house during the winter leisure, in anticipation of the new tenants that were to be! In the meantime, as I always had some half-dozen different kinds of pets on hand, we found occupation and amusement in taking care of them and occasionally adding to the stock.

"This, together with the winter hunting, trapping, and looks, gave swift wings to the hours for me. Winter broke up—spring came with its tender wild flowers and fickle smiles. Spring is the time for poetry—when one is yet in the teens—and I had fallen into a dreamy mood in which I was permitting the spring to go by, without noticing its flight, when I was suddenly roused one May morning by a most curious and unexpected incident.

"I had gone into the garden summer-house with my book as the excuse, but dreaming as usual, without noticing the letters on its pages, when a soft, whirring noise, close to my face, caused me to look up. About one foot from me a Humming Bird, poised so steadily upon the wing that its body seemed perfectly motionless, looked with its bright, knowing eye fixedly into mine. It did not move when I lifted my head, and retaining this position for nearly a quarter of a minute, with a low chirp darted out and settled on some flowers near to trim its plumes. I started up, while a quick thought sent a thrill of exquisite pleasure through my whole frame. The bird sat still. I ran with my utmost speed to the house, and, catching a glimpse of my sister, cried out to her, almost beside myself with excitement—

"Get the white cup! Get our cup! some honey! some sugar!—here's the water!—quick, dear! quick! for heaven's sake!"

"What is the matter with you, brother?" exclaimed the distracted child, endeavouring at the same time to execute these multifarious orders all at once.

"O, our bird's come back! I saw him just now! Where are the closet keys? O, he's come back to us all the way from South America—the little darling! I thought he couldn't forget us!"

"But, brother, you are mad—how can you tell it from another Humming Bird—I've seen a dozen this spring!"

"Oh! I know it was one of the young ones—he came in and looked me in the eyes ever so long! Do make haste!"

"The mixture is completed and off we run in trembling eagerness—for this test we knew would decide for or against us. We reach the summer-house—the magical white cup is raised before us, it is still sitting on the flower, we give one chirp as of old, and without an instant's hesitation it darts to the cup, alights upon the rim and plunges its little thirsty bill up to the very eyes in that delicious cup, and takes the longest, deepest draught I ever saw taken before by one of them; and this convinced me that it had just arrived, and had come straight to its old home for food and love. My sister burst into tears and screams of joyous laughter, and as to what ridiculous capers I might have been guilty of, I cannot tell—I only remember the self-contented and philosophical manner in which the returned pilgrim continued to plume its storm-ruffled feathers, uttering now and then the old chirps on the side of that cup; this position it continued to retain until we bore him on it to his new house, of which he assumed possession with a remarkably matter-of-fact, or rather matter-of-course, air.

"About a week after this, while walking in the garden one morning, I observed two humming birds engaged in chasing each other in a very coy and loving manner. Something in the tame and confident manner of one of them made me suspect it was our bird engaged in making love. I went back for the white cup, and this time, too, its magic proved itself invincible—for both birds came without hesitation and settled upon the rim—the one which took the long and eager draught, as if perishing of fatigue and hunger, proved to be the female that had just arrived. It was a little larger than the male, and seemed, at first, somewhat shyer than he, though a few days were sufficient to make all right as ever between us again.

"How wondrous strange and incomprehensible it seemed to us—the acuteness of senses—the strength of memory and affection—the wizard sagacity, in a word—that could have brought these tiny creatures back to us, from so many thousand miles away, straight as the arrow from the bow."

Having extracted so largely from this interesting chapter, we have only space to notice that the book is illustrated with a number of plates, very elaborately printed in chromolithography from drawings by the author's wife. These have, however, the same desultory character as the text. Some beautiful landscape plates, for example, of Red Indians are introduced, but there is not a word about them in the letter-press. It will be seen from these remarks that the book is a very handsome one, and notwithstanding its deficiencies in taste and sentiment, contains much that is really good.

The Roses. By the Author of 'The History of a Elirt.' 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

THE author of this novel has already established a reputation for clever observation of character and much liveliness of style. In 'The Roses' we have a tale of modern life, in which ordinary incidents are described and everyday characters delineated in a manner sure to be attractive to readers of fiction. The story chiefly turns on the career of a young heiress, light-hearted and impulsive, who marries a miser, and only discovers her husband's character when too late. The pleasantest part of the book is the account of the early life of the cheerful and romantic Miss Delaney, among her native mountains in Wales, and her friendship for the humble cottage girl, Betsy Davis. To her she had been introduced by her companion and attendant, Kate ap Rees, whom she called Pekuah, after the maid friend of the Princess in 'Rasselas.' The discovery of Betsy Davis is thus described by Miss Delaney, who is the narrator of the story:—

"I heard a great deal about common sense during my youthful days. My mother always spoke very respectfully, and sometimes poetically in its praise; but it was always on the lips of my humble acquaintance, and it certainly formed the keystone of all the village resolutions and conclusions. I spoke much on the subject to Pekuah, who kept close to her simple definition of its being 'something that made one know who and what one was,' and she always ended by citing Betsy Davis as a girl of the best common sense in the place, and she could tell me all about it. My quick attention was turned towards Betsy Davis, of whom I knew little, save that she was very pretty, and lived in a cottage near Aberglasslyn with her mother. I soon formed an acquaintance with her, and loved her for qualities which are confined to no particular place or order of society. I found in after life nobility of soul grew richly even in uncultivated soil, and nowhere had I seen it luxuriate more gracefully and freely than in the character of Betsy Davis.

"Those who have observed the humbler classes in distant parts of these kingdoms, have often remarked upon their calm and almost dignified exterior, contrasted with the southern peculiarity which bears the name of vulgarity. It is strikingly noticed in Scotland and North Wales, and generally attributed to the seclusion of its inhabitants, who see little of the world, and are unaffected by the example and contagion of large manufacturing towns.

"She was, indeed, a creature to admire, and it was well for her peace that her retired habits, and the little 'nest' in the rock, had sheltered her from the observation of the high and gay parties which were so often attracted to Aberglasslyn. She might have proved a mark for the wealthy profligate, and her end might have been a common, but fearful story. She might also have caught the fancy of some noble fair one, whose delight was in novelties, and who might, for a brief season, have taken delight in a wild flower from the mountains, and raised her into a *recherché* lady's-maid, till her beauty waned, and her spirits were broken down. Betsy Davis was saved from all these things by her common sense. She kept apart from the young girls of the village, and was never idling among the groups who watched the sketching parties, or hung on the skirts of a picnic upon the mountains. She was busy in her own home. She had one object in view, and she never lost sight of it: she was earnestly labouring for a little competency to support her mother in comfort, by knitting, and disposing of her work at stated periods in Carnarvon, where she had many friends.

"I was surprised at Betsy's calm reasoning, as we conversed together on the few incidents which transpired at Beddgelart. I meant to teach, but I often detected myself listening to her gentle accents, and wondering at her perceptions of things. I had read books, and my companion was not acquainted even with her letters;—how came she to silence me so often? Her dark eyes were so intelligent, and her beauty so peculiar, that they took hold of my imagination, and I became her admirer and companion, to the great relief of Pekuah. I quitted my book-closet and the companions I had called out of nothing, to hold intercourse with life and beauty; my voice was no more heard conversing with empty air, and my dear mother secretly rejoiced that her daughter's delusion was passing away, and the days of her monomania were ended."

"I found Betsy Davis even more difficult to impress with my tastes than Pekuah; she listened courteously to my observations, but gaily laughed down my high-flown notions. She knew nothing of philosophy; her world was Aberglasslyn, and she had no wish beyond it."

This mountain-rose afterwards is transplanted to richer soil, and becomes the companion of the heiress, Alice Montgomery, and mingles with the gay and fashionable world. Of the complicated incidents of the tale we can attempt no outline, but the reader will follow with interest the fortunes of the white, the red, and the wild rose. In the midst of the narrative there occasionally occur shrewd and sensible remarks, which show that in the lighter writing the author purposely suits the style to the taste of the class for whom such works are chiefly written. In diffuser language there is something of Thackeray's tone in such passages as the following:—

"I have often been surprised at novels. They profess to display character and exemplify life: alas! they end where they should begin. A beautiful young woman confused among a shoal of admirers, choosing one whose ample brow or curling hair has borne away the prize from all competitors, sparkles awhile, creates envy and jealousy, and leaves us in a wreath of orange flowers;—while we turn from the altar to gaze after the meteor, behold her entering a chariot and four, and 'so an end.' The flutter is over, the choice is made, but we are not allowed to see the

consequences of that choice; yet the bride is but then commencing life, and her sorrows and joys are to come. It would surely excite many a youthful mind to ponder, if they were put in possession of the knowledge how many lovely brides exchange the orange-flower wreath for buds of the deadly nightshade, and doff the splendid lace dress, to wrap themselves in the garment of heaviness. Others, again, walk with uncertain steps and slow, to whisper vows in plain white muslin, and retire unheeded; yet their life has been pleasant, and their pleasures past the telling. It is not how life is begun, but how it wears and is brought to an end, that we require practical lessons."

The moral of the tale is good, showing the folly of pursuing worldly ambition or pleasure as the means of happiness.

Sketches and Characters; or, the Natural History of the Human Intellects. By James William Whitecross. Saunders and Otley.

We promise to the readers of this volume some instruction and much entertainment. The subject is interesting, and it is treated in a manner at once original and eccentric. It was some time before we could make out whether the whole book was written in jest or earnest, but the gravity of the author, and the earnestness of his writing, satisfied us that it is really intended as a philosophical treatise on human nature. Besides, a work of nearly four hundred pages would be rather formidable and expensive a literary joke. Mr. Whitecross evidently intends his sketches of character to form a contribution to mental science or to 'the history of human intellects,' according to his own term. Yet the reader will hardly divest himself of the idea that he is studying a philosophical burlesque, so frequent being the transitions from the sublime to the ridiculous, and so much to cause amusement being mingled with abundant information and shrewd remark. Democritus, the ancient sage, who inculcated wisdom by the aid of merriment, was a laughing philosopher on principle, but Mr. Whitecross, we are constrained on the whole to conclude, jests unconsciously, and causes laughter when soberly intending to communicate knowledge. We must give his opening paragraph, in which he declares how "the proper study of mankind is man:"—

"There is nothing that astounds and transports us so much, and fills the mind with an ever new and ever rising admiration, as the starry heaven above and the structure of our intellect within us. If the vast distances and mighty bulk of the heavenly bodies, their infinite number, and the prodigious velocity of their motions, fill the imagination with awe, a close survey of the structure of our intellect excites equal wonder and astonishment. Even at the outset there is something interesting, if not marvellous, in the quantity of different organs of apprehension: we have got five fingers, five senses, and five distinct faculties of the intellect. If the structure of the eye, considered as an optical instrument, with its crystalline lens, its adaptation to the properties of light, and its varieties suited to the different necessities of each animal, never fails to rouse our admiration, nothing startles and amazes us more than the organization of our inward spiritual eye, of our conscience and understanding, of which the former, 'the still small voice,' warns us of the least deviation from the straight line of moral duties, and though unasked and unlooked for, judges of the goodness or wickedness, not only of our actions, but even of our most secret motives; whereas the latter is fitted out with the wonderful organ of causation, and the faculty of reasoning by induction and analogy.

"Beholding for the first time the internal organ-

ization of our mind, we cannot help admiring the infinite wisdom of our Creator, who, forming it in a manner so perfectly adapted to its destination, endowing it with such powers, faculties, and propensities, as are necessary to preserve our life, to ascertain all our moral duties, even the highest, to know ourselves and the thousands of worlds rolling and blazing above, has reared up the noblest emblem of his omnipotence."

After the introductory chapter, which opens with the foregoing flourish, the author proceeds to describe the circumstances by which the diversity of human intellect is determined, his facts concerning which are arranged under the following headings:—

"The obvious disparity in the intellectual powers of men pointed out.

"The influence of diet, of the game of draughts and chess and of whist; the influence of daylight, of the weakness or excellence of the senses, or of the want of one of them; the influence of passions, of society, of parliamentary life, of education, and of music, upon our intellectual faculties."

Of the comments on this incongruous list of causes we give the opening sentences on diet, whist, and daylight:—

"The ancient Egyptians appear to have been aware of the great influence of the diet upon the soundness, readiness, and the full development of our intellectual faculties, as we may infer from the dietetical rules framed for their priests, who exclusively cultivated all sciences. Franklin, from his personal experience, recommends abstemiousness in eating, and the exclusive use of clear water, as conducive to clearness of thought. The stablemen and drivers of Mr. Whitbread's brewery, observes the 'American in England,' are as colossal as their horses; and the appearance of all the people about this establishment goes to prove that beer-drinking is not, after all, such a bad thing in its physical effects. Its tendency, however, did not seem to be to quicken the intellect, for most of them had a dull, drowsy, and immovable look. It was impossible to detect any intellectuality in their countenances or speculation in their eyes.

"Mr. Edgar A. Poe observes, that 'the game of chess, in its effects upon the mental character, is greatly misunderstood, and that the higher powers of the reflective intellect are more decidedly and more usefully tasked by the unostentatious game of draughts than by all the elaborate frivolity of chess. Whist has long been noted for its influence upon what is termed the calculating power; and men of the highest order of intellect have been known to take an apparently unaccountable delight in it, while eschewing chess as frivolous. Beyond doubt there is nothing of a similar nature so greatly tasking the faculty of analysis. The best chess-player in Christendom may be little more than the best player of chess; but proficiency in whist implies capacity for success in all those more important undertakings where mind struggles with mind. The sources whence legitimate advantage may be derived, are not only manifold but multifarious, and frequently among recesses of thought altogether inaccessible to the ordinary understanding. To observe attentively is to remember distinctly, and so far the concentrative chess-player will do very well at whist, while the rules of Hoyle are generally comprehensible; but it is a matter beyond the limits of the rule, that the skill of the analyst is evinced as he is making in silence a host of observations and inferences.

"We learn from the statistics of France, that there is an odd analogy between the amount of daylight enjoyed by the people and their amount of intellectual illumination—the best lodged departments being also the best instructed."

The remarks of Mr. Whitecross on national character are generally sound and judicious, but in the midst of really good descriptions there comes in some coarse or homely passage, giving a ludicrous turn to the whole sketch. Thus, in speaking of the English character,

there is a really philosophical as well as patriotic delineation, thus commencing:—

"The English character exhibits the high combination of the spirit of chivalry, blended with the mild spirit of Christianity; though twice denationalized, the English came, however, in moral and mental points, up to that perfection which men seem to have been destined to. There is no deficiency nor exuberance, either in mental powers or moral feelings, which might have prevented them from attaining that greatness or happiness which mankind is capable of; for it cannot be denied, that on the whole there is now more sound religion, social happiness, political freedom, and material prosperity in England, than in any nation in the world, and that there is no other country where so many are and believe themselves happy, and enjoy all the blessings and comforts of life. It is there that we see the Norman tempered by the Saxon, the fire of conquest softened by integrity, a serene, though flexible habit of thought; it is in England that we find patient fortitude, founded on religious and moral principles; energy, the fruit of free institutions; unbounded credit, the consequence of the strict maintenance of public faith; and wealth, the effect of industry and commercial enterprise.

"The stout and honest heart of Old England, the steady, stalwart character of Anglo-Saxons, the high chivalrous spirit of Normans, the deeply-rooted respect for the law, the manly self-reliance, the sturdy sense of independence, unwearied perseverance, robust and athletic endurance, inflexible constancy, stern resolution, active and stirring spirit, starting forward in the animating pursuit of the better, haughty consciousness of liberty, obstinate contempt of tyranny and danger, high sense of self-respect, and a vivid, deep, and earnest religious feeling, are sterling qualities with which they have achieved their greatness."

After proceeding in this strain we are told that—

"Englishmen scorn every enthusiasm, rightly judging, that it is short-lived; but rather exclaim, 'Britons, be bricks!' that is, be square and lay fast, as square stones do; don't roll round like a ball, and don't fly up like balloons."

And again, after an eloquent account of the English constitution, we are told that—

"Under its protection, the English have extended their sway in five parts of the world; in climates where whisky is freezing, and where they may boil their pudding exposing it to the rays of the sun; in countries, with eternally unclouded sky, and where the sun disappears for three months. They dominate from Downing-street several versicoloured nations, and are nowhere subject to a foreign monarch; even at St. Petersburg, the English factor enjoys privileges amounting to absolute independence from local authorities."

As the Scottish national grievances are attracting some notice at present, we give Mr. Whitecross's account of the Caledonian characteristics:—

"Under Scottish heavens, whose 'deep fermenting tempests are brewed in grim evening;' under Scotland's storm-loving, mist-enamoured sun; in a country indented by winding estuaries, deep inlets of the ocean, and fringed by innumerable islands; where you see mountain ranges rising into peaks of granite, or descending into precipices of gneiss; which embosom limpid lakes or give birth in their career to a thundering cataract; where you see lavas of trap and granite containing precious gems and ores; where you may see buried forests, basaltic caves, columnar sea-cliffs stretching out their Doric colonnades, or shooting forth their broken shafts and the shattered polygons; where you may see the parallel roads of Glenroy, the thirty vitrified forts, the joyous moors; a country where you see clouds of an ephemeral fly cover the angler with their thrown off filmy skins, limbs, and eyes; where the bird-catchers, darting as spiders from the top of the wall, are suspended over the steepest and loftiest cliffs; a country whose heathers, nooks,

lochs, glens, woods, and cloud-capped and eagle-breeding mountains live in our mind when once seen, is inhabited by two nations—the Scotch Highlanders and Lowlanders, called by the former 'Crutnich.' The Highlanders have retained their old Celtic language, and partly their picturesque costume and clanish spirit; the Lowlanders are a nation coalesced from Danes and Anglo-Saxons, and have the language, manners, as well as the glorious name of Britons in common with the English. There is in the Scotch character a sort of shrewd simplicity, a quaint mixture of gentleness and daring, of warmth of heart and reserve of manner. They are an intelligent, serious, calculating, crafty, sober, industrious, and persevering people. In self-command, in forethought, in all qualities of mind which conduce to success in life, the Scots have never been surpassed. They display a cautious, wary, distrustful nature, which they call sound and safe judgment, and at the same time a natural impetuosity of intellect, which they sometimes claim and sometimes are upbraided with. They have an eminently logical intellect, are given to scrutinising and metaphysical investigations, and possess a very acute understanding. Only by dint of laborious and subtle distinctions they are coming to conviction; have a natural turn for metaphysical discussion, and are remarkable for their theological discrimination. Theological disputes, which they are very fond of, had sharpened their wit. Even in a thatched hovel of a solitary island one finds periodicals of polemical theology; however, there are fewer visionaries or speculators, as we would suppose; metaphysically as some are inclined, they have a contempt for everything that does not promote their own real and substantial advantage. Scotch countrypeople are celebrated for giving indirect answers to plain questions. Though cool-minded, though not capable of enthusiasm, and having no buoyancy of imagination to lead them astray, they have, however, a great many tunes, and poets singing in the broad Scotch dialect, which has retained a great deal of old German words and forms of speech."

After disposing of national character, Mr. Whitecross undertakes an investigation of the forms of mental deficiencies and monstrosities, and the variety of his disquisitions may be understood from the headings of the sections in one of his chapters:—"Stupidity and its different degrees, removes, and shades—Idiots and cretins—Irish innocents—A half-crazed simpleton—A tip-top fool—A blinking idiot—A superstitious fool—A gainsaying fool—A questioning fool—A learned fool—A coxcomb—A witting—A puling and self-adoring fool—A smooth-mannered fool—An habitual liar—A giddy-brained fool—A half-wit—A simpleton and a ninny-hammer—The fanatic."

Of all these mental states there are carefully drawn sketches, illustrated by numerous striking and apposite anecdotes and cases. Even when the style and manner are most objectionable, the meaning of the writer cannot be mistaken. He thus begins his account of common sense:—

"Nothing is less common than common sense: it is like genius, the gift of Heaven, and is more rarely to be met with than pearls and diamonds, so that even a sixpennyworth of it makes our life roll away glibly enough. Common sense is composed of two qualities of the intellect—sense and judgment: a man of great sense but weak judgment is not considered to have common sense, being only called a sensible man, who has the faculty of perceiving, is even able to discern, as if it were intuitively, that which a person of less sense will ponder over and study; but he lacks the faculty of judging rightly, arriving at just conclusions, and avoiding those errors in conduct which a person of weak judgment is always falling into."

"Common sense does not reach as far as the understanding. A person of common sense may be

endowed with a sound judgment, which is but a portion of the reason, which selects or rejects, but is weak in argumentation. The understanding may be enlarged and improved by a proper training, but one must be born to common sense: it is a personal quality, a privilege of the mind, the rarest of human endowments, a mother's legacy, and for that reason is called a mother's wit. It is a lantern of translucent glass, that lights well, though not far; it is the surest guide in life, when not disturbed by passions."

The sketches of female character are lively and truthful, though the fair sex will scarcely accept the flattery of their qualities of heart at the expense of their intellectual powers:—

"It has been observed that women who before marriage struck us with admiration from the brilliancy of their intellect, the vividness of their talents, after marriage settle down and seem never to wander from the limits of house and hearth; that none of them have yet attained to the highest eminence in the highest department of intellect. They have no Newton or Bacon, no Hume or Macaulay, no Shakespeare or Milton, no Burke, no Watt, no Raphael, to boast of. But their inferiority in music is more striking and unaccountable, though it is cultivated with great eagerness. Often great as performers, they never excelled in composition; they have never been able to create the tumultuary harmonies of a Beethoven, nor have rivalled the moonlight tenderness of a Bellini. Having achieved success in literature, especially in every department of fiction, they, however, never succeeded in humour: the lusty mirth and riotous humour of Shakspeare, Swift, Fielding, Dickens, or Thackeray, when compared with humorous touches of Lady Mary Montague, Miss Ferriar, Miss Edgeworth, Miss Austin, look like a quiet smile opposed to the inextinguishable laughter of the Homeric gods."

"I heard somewhere, or might have read it, but do not recollect where, that the subtle elements of which the feminine intellect is compound, baffles analysis; that to describe the subtlety of a feminine understanding, one must pluck a quill from the wing of a butterfly; that it is by far preferable when a man is more influenced by his reason than by his heart, whereas a woman should rather confide and follow the inspirations of her heart, which will prove to be a more faithful and more to be depended on adviser and guide. For the fulfilment of her homely, modest, circumscribed duties, a plain common sense and a kind heart will answer perfectly; that the most important thing for them is female purity, as tending to produce every other virtue. It is her province to hush helpless infancy into repose, to the infirmity of age to supply the sweetness of cheerful patience, to soothe the querulousness of peevish tempers, to allay the violence of intemperate man, and smooth angry passions; that common sense and a kind heart render higher capacities superfluous in a woman; that higher flights of mind will never promote her felicity, nor render her more amiable and taking; that they might test their powers on the flowery field of light literature, and should aim at excelling in the knowledge of the beauties and graces of their mother-tongue; that the rugged and thorny ascent up-hill of science is ill-fitted for the drapery of a petticoat; that there is no indispensable necessity for her talking blue; that they may as well leave higher ranges of sciences entirely to man, as more apt to grapple with its difficulties; that such exertions are sure to cover their lovely faces with precocious wrinkles, and induce them to dismiss that characteristic delicacy, the loss of which no attainment could supply; that it is by far more suitable, when we see beaming in their face the lovely feeling of a wife and mother, rather than the traces of the deep thought of a speculative philosopher. These seem to be sober notions on the question at issue."

The volume concludes with a few remarks on musical genius:—

"Musical genius is the least akin to and the least associated with any other; however, among

ancient Greeks, poetry and music were sisters, and went together. The most beautiful and natural union was not rent asunder in the Middle Ages. Troubadours were poets and musicians at a time. Dante consecrated a whole canto to his intimate friend the musician, Casella, who was just entering purgatory, and who at his request sung his favourite song, 'Amor che nella mente mi ragiona,' with such sweetness of melody, that the whole bevy of souls forgot they were to enter purgatory; this scene is represented in the picture of a young Genoese painter, Cogorno, which we had occasion to admire at Genoa, in the saloon of Mr. Michael Prus de Vizensky. If is a very remarkable circumstance, and which as yet appears not to have attracted the attention of profound philosophy, that musicians, and especially composers, as for instance, Beethoven, when composing his symphony in C minor"

A note states that the manuscript here abruptly ends, Mr. Whitecross sustaining his character of eccentricity in the manner of closing his volume. We may seem to have occupied more space with our notice of the book than might seem justifiable from the specimens which we have extracted. But the faults are more in the manner than the matter, and if Mr. Whitecross does not shine as an author, he is evidently a well-informed and original man.

History of England, from the Peace of Utrecht to the Peace of Versailles. By Lord Mahon.

Vol. VI. Third edition, revised. Murray. THE new matter in this volume of the revised edition of Lord Mahon's 'History' is not of great account or much importance, but we are glad to find the unpleasant controversy about the Washington letters brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The Appendix contains the letter to Lord Mahon, published as a pamphlet in August, 1852, and the following note is subjoined:—

"Since this pamphlet first appeared, and in consequence of the controversies in which it bears a part, Mr. William Reed, with great judgment and propriety, resolved to publish, word for word, and syllable for syllable, from the MSS., the correspondence addressed to his ancestor by Washington, retaining even the errors in the spelling, and noting in the margin whatever alterations Mr. Sparks has made. Of that work as now before me (Philadelphia, 1852) any reader will be able for himself to decide whether it fails to confirm to the fullest extent the allegations of supposed 'embellishments' which I thought it right to make. On the other hand, it completely exonerates Mr. Sparks from the second and last instance of the 'additions' which I had imputed, in the letter namely of Dec. 15, 1775, where the substitution of 'I cannot say that I am sorry' for 'I can only say that I am sorry' was, it now appears, made by accident in the biography of Reed, and is not borne out by the MS. original."

"There has also appeared in America another pamphlet by Mr. Sparks (dated Cambridge, October 25, 1852), as an answer to mine. Into the general argument I do not propose to enter again. I will only observe that in one place (p. 39.) Mr. Sparks distinctly denies having suppressed any letter or passage which showed that Washington, as Mr. Adolphus tells us, 'remonstrated with force and firmness' against the non-fulfilment of the Saratoga Convention. Most fully relying, as I know that I have good reason to do, on Mr. Sparks's personal honour and integrity, I at once retract the suspicions which I had expressed upon that subject. But I can by no means concur with him in thinking that these suspicions were sufficiently disproved by the mere perusal of the London edition of Washington's 'Official Letters,' as published in 1795. This old collection, as the very title indicates, is of course far less extensive and valuable than that of Mr. Sparks, who had not merely the official but a great

variety of private letters at his command. It therefore seemed to me perfectly reasonable to infer that some passages in Washington's confidential correspondence, not of course to be found in his 'Official Letters,' but which both Mr. Adolphus and Mr. Sparks had seen in MS., and which Mr. Sparks might have inserted if he pleased, were the source (and I can guess no other) of that 'remembrance' which Mr. Adolphus has alleged in such positive terms. All these surmises, however, are fully and for ever set at rest in my mind by Mr. Sparks's direct assertion to the contrary."

Having noticed at the time of their appearance these American pamphlets of Mr. William Reed and Mr. Sparks, and given our opinion as to the general merits of the controversy, we have only to express satisfaction at the generous and frank retraction by Lord Mahon of the charges against Mr. Sparks's integrity as a biographer and historian. Another note in the Appendix contains some remarkable statements, from a variety of sources, as to the events of the battle of Bunker's Hill. On this subject also the historian has got into controversy with American writers, one of whom offered a positive denial to the remark in the first edition, that "some of the Americans, even to the present day, have claimed the battle of Bunker's Hill as a victory." This is so generally known that it almost seemed unnecessary to quote special statements from American writers. The construction of the monument, Lord Mahon justly observes, is itself almost a sufficient proof of his allegation. The widest discrepancies also occur as to almost all the details recorded of this battle. American writers differ as to who was the commander of their troops. We need scarcely wonder at this, after the recent discussion about the defence of Hongkong. After citing authorities in behalf of the claims of Generals Putnam, Warren, and Prescott, each of whom are stated in different histories to have commanded, Lord Mahon concludes his note with an interesting literary allusion:—

"With such irreconcilable differences among the best American writers, it seems scarcely just to blame an English one, who may incline to any among these various opinions, or who (as in my own case) refrains from naming any American officer as having had the chief command in the battle of Bunker's Hill.

"Nevertheless, there is no doubt, whatever may have been Colonel Prescott's exact measure of authority, that his conduct at the redoubt was in a high degree gallant and praiseworthy. He was the grandfather of Mr. William Prescott, the excellent historian of Ferdinand and Isabella, of Cortez, and of Pizarro, a gentleman whose high abilities and most agreeable manners were well appreciated and will long be remembered in England. We learn from the Frothingham volume (p. 168) that Mr. William Prescott descends, on the mother's side, from Captain Linzee, an officer engaged with the British on the day of Bunker's Hill; and the swords borne by both these brave men on opposite sides in the same conflict 'are now crossed on the walls of the fine library of the historian.'"

The Americans have certainly been a little peppery in their strictures on Lord Mahon's remarks, and, we may add, much too ready to take offence. We trust, however, the controversy is now at an end. Nothing can be more gentlemanly than the temperate and agreeable spirit in which the historian has met them, and the issue has not been without profit to both parties.

The sixth volume embraces a deeply interesting period both in the internal and foreign history of England, commencing with the Boston tumults in 1774, and bringing the narrative down to the year 1780. The brief

chapter on literature and art during this period, few men could have written better than Lord Mahon.

NOTICES.

Memoir of the late David Maitland Makgill Crichton of Rankelrow, N. B. By Rev. J. W. Taylor. Constable and Co.

THIS is the biography of a Scottish country gentleman, of more than ordinary energy and public spirit, who took a leading part in the political, and still more in the ecclesiastical movements of his time. He belonged to an ancient and honourable house, and was connected with some of the chief families in his native county of Fife. Of the old Lords of Crichton and Frendraught he was the representative, and among his ancestors could count 'The Admirable Crichton,' and another of the name, who was the friend of Knox, and fellow-worker with him in the cause of the Reformation. The biographer introduces interesting notices of some of the branches of the family, from early times down to that of the last European war, when the uncle of Mr. Crichton, Captain Maitland, of the *Bellerophon*, had the honour of receiving Napoleon at Rochfort as his prisoner. In early life David Maitland (not then having acquired by property the additional names) practised at the bar, but did not attain to great professional eminence. His delight was in rural occupations and domestic life, and he was beloved by his tenantry for his kindness as a landlord. Some of the anecdotes of his country life display noble and generous traits of character. When the controversies arose in connexion with the independence of the Kirk, Mr. Crichton threw all his energy into what he deemed the patriotic and popular cause. He traversed Scotland from the Tweed to John o' Groat's house, addressing meetings, and arousing the old spirit of the country for a conflict similar in principle to that of the days of the Covenanters. When the disruption of the Church came, he was one of the leading laymen who supported the seceding clergy, and aided in the establishment of the Free Church. Much of the memoir relates to these ecclesiastical events, and may therefore have less interest for English readers. The over-exertion of his later years seems to have affected Mr. Crichton's health, and he died comparatively young. But there are many points worthy of study in his brief but energetic career. In him the *perfidum ingenium Scotorum*, if sometimes in excess, was usually directed to patriotic and Christian objects. In the course of the 'Memoir' some very beautiful letters are introduced from Mr. Crichton's brother-in-law, Patrick Fraser Tytler, the historian of Scotland. Mr. Tytler, it appears from these letters, was a man of earnest piety as well as great learning. There are also notices of Dr. Chalmers, Sir David Brewster, Lord Jeffrey, and other distinguished Scotchmen, who were friends and correspondents of Mr. Crichton. As a biographer, Mr. Taylor has performed his task ably and judiciously, and while proclaiming the excellences has not concealed the faults of the subject of his Memoir.

The Romance of Military Life; being Souvenirs connected with Thirty Years' Service. By Lieut. Col. G. Poulett-Cameron, C.B. Cox.

THE stories narrated in this book are not of a kind to be understood by detached extracts, but their nature is sufficiently indicated by the title. Of really romantic interest are some of the gallant Colonel's souvenirs of service in the East. The greater part of the anecdotes and adventures are not, however, of a personal kind, but are told from traditional or other authority. The extraordinary narrative, given under the name of Harcourt, would alone form materials for a separate historical romance. The career of an Englishman who had served under Napoleon, his leaving the French service and proceeding to India, his storming the hill fortress, and release of the captives, the hostility of the Mahratta ruler, his concealment in the zenana of the Rajah, his subsequent marriage with the Rajahpootnee princess, her death, and his myste-

rious and unexplained disappearance, formed the subject of a biographical notice in a French official paper some time since. Colonel Harcourt represents his romance as an independent version of the same story. This, and the other tales forming the volume, are told with great animation and spirit, notices of the scenery, people, and manners of India being introduced in the narratives, which thus receive an air of probability, even where obviously exaggerated, if not entirely invented. It is a book which will absorb the attention of any reader, and which ought to be enrolled in the light literature of every military library. Colonel Cameron promises another series, if the present is favourably received by the public, a condition of the fulfilment of which we have little doubt.

Cheshire: its Historical and Literary Associations, Illustrated in a Series of Biographical Sketches. By J. Worthington Barlow, Esq., F.L.S. Kent and Co.

MR. BARLOW has collected biographica memoirs of a goodly number of distinguished Cheshires, commencing with Lord President Bradshaw, of whom a generously written notice is given. Sir William Brereton, Chief Justice Crewe, Major-General Harrison, Colonel Dukinfield, another of the parliamentary commanders, Lord Chancellor Ellesmere, Gerard, author of 'The Herball,' John Hulse, founder of the Hulsean Lectures, Bishop Heber, and other names well known in English history or literature, are in the list of the worthies of Cheshire. A curious Diary, entitled 'Providence Improved,' by Edward Burghall, the puritan vicar of Acton, is reprinted at the close of the volume, containing a notice of various events from the year 1628 to 1663. Mr. Barlow has not attempted to give systematic arrangement, chronological or even alphabetical, to his biographical notices, but he has collected much miscellaneous information of historical as well as of local interest.

Definitions in Political Economy; preceded by an Inquiry into the Rules which ought to Guide Political Economists in the Definition and Use of their Terms. By the late Rev. T. R. Malthus. A new edition, with Preface and Notes. By John Cazenove. Simpkin and Marshall.

FOR the intelligent perusal of works on political economy, and successful investigations in that science, the study of this treatise of Mr. Malthus will be found of great value. In no department of human knowledge is the accurate use of words more important, and in none, except theology, have greater inconveniences arisen from the ill-defined or variable employment of language. The *idola fori* of Lord Bacon here exist in their most conspicuous form. The attempt to produce greater exactness and uniformity in definitions is well carried out by Mr. Malthus, and by Mr. Cazenove in his notes and comments on the work. To enter into any critical details would involve too much discussion for our columns, but we commend Mr. Cazenove's book to all who take interest in the important and practical inquiries which form the subject of the science of political economy.

The Coal Mines: their Dangers and Means of Safety. By James Mather. Longman and Co.

THIS is an important treatise on a subject of national importance. With all the improvements in modern science, and all the precautions which prudence and philanthropy have suggested, it is lamentable to think that the loss of life in the coal mines of our country amounts to nearly a thousand miners each year. The occurrence of several catastrophes of unusual magnitude within the last few years has tardily enforced the subject on public attention, and the Home Secretary has announced the intention of the Government to legislate on the question. No reasonable objections can be made on the part of the owners of coal mines, when the loss of property, apart from that of human lives, amounts often to sixty per cent. in the case of accidents. Legislation must be wisely effected and energetically enforced. The appearance of this work is therefore opportune as well as important. It describes the present condition of the mines, explains their dangers, and suggests means of safety.

Mr. Mather has paid great attention to the subject, being Honorary Secretary of the Shields Committee appointed to investigate the causes of accidents in the coal districts. The work is appropriately dedicated to the present active and intelligent Hon. Secretary, Lord Palmerston, to whose department of government the subject appertains, and from whose energy and wisdom we may expect satisfactory legislation to be carried out. With the information provided in the official reports of committees of the House of Commons, and in the present clear and concise statement by Mr. Mather, there is no excuse for further delay, and we trust that in next session of Parliament this question will be disposed of, along with other practical measures of social improvement, which it is happily the tendency of public opinion at the present time to demand, in preference to party movements and mere political changes.

SUMMARY.

In Bohn's 'Ecclesiastical Library,' a translation of *The Ecclesiastical History of Socrates* is given in one volume, with notes selected from Valesius, and a brief prefatory notice of the author. The History of Socrates embraces a period of 140 years, from the accession of Constantine, A.D. 305, to the 38th year of Theodosius II. The present edition of Socrates will be acceptable to students of Church history, and will be consulted with interest by general readers. There is a copious index, with references to the principal topics of the seven books of the historian. The sketches of Constantine the Great, of Julian the Apostate, and other celebrated men of that epoch, are very striking, and are valuable, as given by one who, living so near their times, has preserved traditions then recent, and has put on record facts then currently believed.

In the department of moral and metaphysical philosophy, from the 'Encyclopedia Metropolitana,' is reprinted the *Treatise on the Philosophy of the First Six Centuries*, by the Rev. Professor Maurice, (Griffin & Co.) It is a masterly descriptive sketch of the opinions and doctrines of ancient philosophers, and presents the substance of what is found in Brucker, Ritter, and other larger works.

Of Mr. Charles M. Willich's *Income Tax Tables* (Longman and Co.), a new edition is issued. To the tables, showing at a glance the amount of duty for particular incomes, are prefixed miscellaneous notices, containing statistical information derived from parliamentary documents. A comparative statement of the Income Tax Acts of Pitt, Peel, and Gladstone, presents features of historical interest. Mr. Willich calculates that the amount received under Mr. Gladstone's Act will approach, if not exceed, six millions and a half sterling.

A *Table for a Decimal System of Account*, adapted to the current coinage of the realm (Smith, Elder, and Co.), deserves the study of those whose attention is turned to this subject. In his prefatory remarks the writer, Mr. Borradaile, late of the Bombay Civil Service, expresses his regret that the name of rupee had not been adopted, for the tenth of a pound, instead of the new term, florin. The suggestion is good, but, we fear, comes too late for adoption, else it would have been convenient to use the name of a coin almost identical in value with the two-shilling piece, and already familiar among a hundred and fifty millions of subjects of the British Empire in India.

Mr. Peter Burke does not appear to neglect professional pursuits in the midst of his literary labours. We lately reviewed the biography of his namesake the great statesman, and we have now to notice a clear and able summary and abstract of *The Patent Law Amendment Act* (Benning and Co.), containing much practical information of easy reference, with explanations and comments on the subject generally. The chief clauses of recent Acts are given, with schedules of stamps, forms, fees, and other relevant matters, and a copious index.

Of the *Life and Remains of Theodore Edward Hook*, by the Rev. R. H. Dalton Barham, author of the 'Ingoldsby Legends,' (Bentley,) a new edition appears, revised and corrected. A few additional memorials are introduced from various sources. Some of the pieces, formerly reprinted from the 'John Bull' newspaper as Hook's, are omitted in this edition, the authorship being found to belong to others.

A *Discourse on Phrenology, Psychology, and Pneumatology* (J. Chapman), by an interview may be consulted by those who have faith in recent exhibitions and announcements on these subjects.

Dr. Thomas Graham, author of the work on domestic medicine, has published a volume on the *Management and Disorders of Infancy and Childhood* (Simpkin, Marshall and Co.), containing much judicious advice and valuable directions on these important and widely interesting subjects. The style is plain and simple, and the book may be profitably consulted by non-professional readers, and though popular in its information, the statements of the author are founded on scientific knowledge and practical experience.

In a treatise of small size, but full of important practical matter, Mr. David Walker offers *Remarks on National Education and its Present Tendency* (Groombridge and Son), worthy of the attention of all interested in education. Mr. Walker has had much experience in tuition, being master of the Central National Schools at Lincoln, and formerly of Battersea Training College, and the Normal School at Edinburgh. The points on which the present systems of education are chiefly defective, are pointed out in a manner which will carry conviction to the reader. Physical and moral training do not receive attention in proportion to intellectual training, or rather the mere communication of knowledge.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Abel and Bloxam's Handbook of Chemistry, 8vo, cloth, 15s.
Arabian Nights, illustrated by Harvey, 1 vol., small 8vo, 7s. 6d.
Arnold's (Matt.) Poems, new edition, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 5s. 6d.
Beydell's (J.) Merchant Freighter's Assistant, cloth, 6s. 6d.
Best's Tracts on Old Testament Histories, 12mo, 3s. 6d.
Boone's (J. S.) Sermons on Various Subjects, 3 vols., 3s. 6d.
Brown's (P. A.) Trichologia Mammalia, 4to, sd., 41 5s.
Buckland's Early Rising, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
Calvert's Priest and Huguenot, translated, 2 vols., 12s.
Calvert's Gold Rocks of Great Britain and Ireland, 10s. 6d.
Celebrated Children, 2nd edition, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Clarke's (A. M.) Memoirs, by her Son, post 8vo, cloth, 8s. 6d.
De Bow's Industrial Resources of Southern States, Vol. 4, 16s.
Dickson's (M. A.) Divine Love, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Druitt's (Dr.) Surgeon's Vade Mecum, 6th edition, 12s. 6d.
Fisher's Statistical Gazetteer of the United States, 8vo, 10s.
Fullam's (S. W.) Marvels of Science, 6th edition, 7s. 6d.
Gray's Elegy, post 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
Greyhound (John) Treatise on the Law of Costs in Action, 41 1s.
Home Friend, Vol. 3, 8vo, cloth, 8s. 6d.
Hooper's Physician's Vade Mecum, new edition, 12s. 6d.
Illustrated Ditties of the Olden Time, 4to, reduced, 7s. 6d.
John, by E. Carlen, 2 vols., post 8vo, cloth, 8s.
Jomini's History of Waterloo, by S. V. Benet, 4s. 6d.
Jukes's Characteristic Difference of the Four Gospels, 2s. 6d.
Knighton's (W.) Forest Life in Ceylon, 2 vols., p. 8vo, 41 1s.
Lee's Trees, Plants, and Flowers, coloured plates, 8vo, 15s.
Macintosh's (Sir J.) History of England, 2 vols., 41 1s.
McLean's (A.) Miscellaneous Works, 7 vols., 12mo, 41 1s.
Mason & Bernard's Easy Practical Hebrew Grammar, 41 8s.
Introduction to Dittos, 8vo, cloth, 5s.
Mayne's (S. J.) Stanton Rectory, 12mo, cloth, Part 2, 5s.
Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, Vol. 36, 8vo, cloth, 18s.
Moses' (Henry) Englishman's Life in India, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
Newcomb's (H.) Home and its Associations, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
Life and its Duties, 2s.
Parley's Annual, 1854, square cloth, 5s.
Present for all Seasons, square cloth, 5s.
Paul's (W.) Supplement to Rose Garden, 8vo, sewed, 5s.
Phillips's Million of Facts, new edition, 12mo, cloth, 12s.
Roscoe's North Wales, 8vo, cloth, gilt, 10s. 6d.
Rowland's (A.) Human Hair, 8vo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
Ruff's Guide to the Turf, winter edition, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
St. John's (F.) Rambles in Germany, France & Russia, 9s. 6d.
Sanders's (T. C.) Institutes of Justinian, 8vo, cloth, 15s.
Scott's Lady of the Lake, new edit., illust., 18s., mor., 41 5s.
Lay of the Last Minstrel, illustrated, crown 8vo, 18s.
Sermon on the Mount, new edition, 41 1s.; mor., 41 11s. 6d.
Smith's Principles of Mental and Moral Training, 12mo, 5s.
Sortain's Hildebrand & the Emperor, 3rd edit., reduced, 3s. 6d.
Count Arensburg, 2 vols., post 8vo, reduced, 7s.
Southey's (R.) Poetical Works, Vol. 5, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Madox, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Life by C. T. Browne, fcap. cloth, 6s.
Stearn's Notes on Uncle Tom's Cabin, post 8vo, 3s. 6d.
Steggall's Celstus, 2nd edition, 12mo, cloth, 5s.

Stephens's Essays in Ecclesiastical Biography, 2 vols., 41 4s.
Swain's (C.) Letters of Laura D'Auvergne, fcap. 8vo, 3s. 6d.
Traveler's Library, 51—The Attic Philosopher in Paris, 1s.
Wheeler's Appraiser's & Auctioneer's Pocket Assistant, 2s. 6d.
Wide Wide World, new edition, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Wingfield and Johnson's Poultry Book, royal 8vo, 41 1s.
Young Marooners, 12mo, cloth, 2s.

CEYLON BOTANIC GARDENS.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradenia, Ceylon,
October 10th.

I PROPOSE sending you a short account of the present state of the Ceylon Botanic Gardens, now under the able management of G. H. K. Thwaites, Esq. These gardens are situated at Peradenia, four miles from Kandy, on the high road to Colombo, and at an elevation of about 1600 feet above the sea. They cover an undulating surface of 140 acres, a considerable portion of which is occupied by an arboretum, into which, from time to time, the native forest-trees are introduced, and where eventually will be brought together most of the arborescent plants of the island, and such valuable forest-trees as will stand the climate. The river Mahawelle Ganga flows round three sides of the garden. The opposite banks are steep, gradually rising into wooded hills of various heights; some reclaimed and planted with coffee, others still covered with jungle.

The approach to the garden, from the Kandy road, is through an avenue of tall India-rubber trees (*Ficus elastica*), hung with various creepers, such as *Bignonia* and *Ipomoea*; and nearly opposite the entrance gate, a remarkably fine specimen of *Bauhinia scandens* (jungle rope) throws its strangely compressed and twisted rope-like stems from branch to branch, and stretches fairly across the road. Immediately within the gate the broad gravelled road divides round a circular bed of palms, such as at some future day the new Crystal Palace may exhibit, but which, for luxuriance, is as yet unrepresented in England. The group comprises the talipot (*Corypha umbraculifera*), *Livistona chinensis*, *Caryota wrens*, dense clumps of *C. horrida*, *Borassus flabelliformis*, *Avoca catechu*, *Scaevola Dicksoni*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Oreodoxa oleracea*, *Phoenix dactylifera*, and *Ph. furcifera*, a fine unnamed Malayan palm, two species of *Calamus*, and very large specimens of *Cycas circinalis*. Some of these are twenty, some forty, some sixty feet high; some have fan-shaped, some pinnate, and some much divided fronds; and being brought together into a definite clump of gigantic foliage, forcibly arrest the stranger's attention, particularly when his glance also falls on the beds at either side, where large *Sciatamineae* and *Yucca* are overtopped by two huge traveller's trees (*Ravennala speciosa*) with palm-like trunks at least 35 feet to the base of the leaves, and fully 50 feet to the extreme top. The specimens of this noble plant in English stoves, where the caudex is either not at all, or scarcely formed, give no adequate idea of the port of a full grown plant, with its fan of 40 or 50 distichous leaves, each leaf 12 to 15 feet long, mounted on a column 30 to 40 feet high, as formally as if the whole had been cast in bronze. I can think of no better comparison for this grotesque, and yet noble object, than the great fans of peacock's feathers which are borne on each side of the Pope on festival days. The leaves, like those of the banana, are usually torn to ribbons, which makes them look still more like feathers as they wave to and fro in the wind.

On passing the group of palms you enter a straight road, running through the garden to another palm-circle recently planted at the further end. This road has wide side-borders well furnished in front with flowers and small flowering shrubs, and in the rear with larger shrubs and trees, among which, here and there, are scattered palms and *Pandanus*, the latter conspicuous for their snake-like stems and branches, terminal screw-like tufts of sword-shaped leaves, and abundant ropes and cables. These borders are at all times gay with bright-leaved plants and flowers. Among the former, *Dracaena ferva* and *Poinsettia pulcherrima*, supply the brilliant pinks and crimsons, and a variegated form of the mop-shaped

Croton longifolium, the bright yellows. The flowering shrubs and trees are much too numerous to mention; a few, now in flower, must suffice. Many fine species of *Cassia*, particularly one recently imported from Trinidad, every branch of which bears a panicle of bright golden flowers at least 15 inches in diameter, and *C. alata*, with its large fern-like foliage, dense, erect racemes, and orange bracts; *Allamanda cathartica* and *A. Schottii*, ever displaying a profusion of golden bells; *Ixora coccinea* and *I. rosea*, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, *Plumbago*, several *Clerodendrons*, *Bauhinias*, *Gardenia florida*, *Crossandra*, *Eranthemum*, and other *Acanthaceae*; *Bignonia stans* and *Tecoma capensis*, several *Ardisia*, more remarkable for handsome foliage and fruit than for showy flowers; these, and many others, with abundance of roses and small flowers, keep the borders perpetually sweet and gay. *Lagerstroemia Regina*, here a tree, bearing superb panicles of purple flowers, has just shed its "leafy honours;" *Barringtonia racemosa* still displays a few of its pendent crimson tassels, *Dillenia* and *Wormias*, 20 to 30 feet high, with dark plaited leaves and white flowers; *Alstonia*, *Poinciana pulcherrima* and *P. regia*, the umbrageous *Solanum macranthum*; *Jonesia Asoca*, laden with rich bunches of orange flowers; *Humboldtia laurifolia*, *Calocanthes indica*, now hung with great sword-shaped pods, &c., are among the larger border shrubs and small trees. *Beaumontia grandiflora* climbs the tallest trees, flowering among the upper branches; and *Capparis Moonii*, a fine Ceylon creeper, almost covers one large tree with its glossy leaves and white flowers. Two fine trees of *Phyllanthus Madagascariensis*, planted at a crossing, diffuse the smell (rather than the fragrance) of boiled potato-skins, while well-grown cinnamon and camphor-trees, not far distant, remind you that you are in the land of sweet spices and gums.

There is no banyan tree in the garden; but there are several fine examples of the larger species of *Ficus*, particularly of the epiphytic fig-trees which abound in the lower jungles of the island. These species, though not necessarily epiphytic, often vegetate either at the base or in the crevices or hollows of old or half decayed trees; and in either case, the fig, growing rapidly, adheres to the supporting tree, at first modestly, like an ivy, but at length completely encloses the trunk and larger branches in a thick wooden coffin. The attacked tree, now hidden under a dense conglomeration of adnate branches and adnate aerial roots, which compose the false trunk of the fig, languishes, while the fig grows proportionably luxuriant, and at length far exceeds in size the tree, to which, as an humble parasite, it had at first affixed itself.

But perhaps the most remarkable isolated figs in the garden are two fine India-rubber trees (*Ficus elastica*) at least 80 feet high, planted apart, one on each side of one of the walks. The girth of the largest is nearly 30 feet at the base, but it soon divides into three trunks, each 10 feet round. Its most remarkable feature, however, is not the height or girth of the stem, but the grand display of exposed roots which radiate from its base, stretching, like the spokes of a wheel, ten or twelve yards in every direction. Where they issue from the base of the trunk they form vertical plates, from 2 to 3 feet high, and from 3 to 5 inches in thickness, but they gradually diminish in height to the extremities. They are connected, here and there, by cross plates, which anastomose in a tolerably regular manner; and the whole display of roots reminds you (comparing great things with small) of the under surface of the leaf of the *Victoria regia*, if you take the trunk of the tree for the leafstalk, and the radiating and anastomosing roots for the ribs and veins.

Among the ornamental or remarkable trees the various species of *Artocarpus* deserve particular notice. *A. incisa* (bread-fruit) is sufficiently known in England by the fine specimen at Kew, which imagination may easily carry into a tree 40 to 50 feet high. *A. integrifolia* (the jack), a tall forest-tree, 60 to 80 feet high, with excellent wood resembling coarse mahogany, dark polished oval leaves, dense well-covered branches, and large fruits, hanging on short shoots, from the trunk or

principal limbs; and *A. pubescens* (wild bread-fruit,) with plaited leaves of large size, are very handsome. A native species of *Antiaris* (or upas), from whose tough inner bark excellent sacks are made, has recently been introduced into the garden. Other ornamental trees are—*Schleichera trijuga* (Ceylon oak,) which at a little distance strikingly resembles *Quercus Ilex*; *Carallia ceylanica*, *Careya arborea*, *Kleinhovia ceylanica*, *Michelia Champaca*, &c.; but none exceed in beauty the fern-leaved *Nephelium* and the *Rhus decipiens*.

In a country where few trees are deciduous, a sameness of tint in the forest is to be expected; and to a considerable extent this is the case in Ceylon, if we confine ourselves to the fully formed leaves. But though distinct seasons, affecting all nature at once and strongly, are here wanting, the change of leaf often exhibits colours as bright as those which tinge the autumnal woods of America with broad washes of crimson and yellow. Here, however, it is not the old, but the young leaves which are highly coloured; and as the older leaves are still freshly green on the body of the tree, the ends of the branches clad in clear tints of white, pale yellow, pink, crimson, or purple, appear to support clusters of showy flowers. If all trees changed their leaves at the same season, these tints would be as famous as those of America. The most beautiful are exhibited by *Mesua ferrea* (bright crimson), the *Eugenia* (crimson), *Nephelium Mora* (deep red), the *Semecarpus* (bluish purple), the *Lauri* (rich sienna brown), *Symplocos* (rich brown), *Garcinia* (fulvous), *Inga bignoniina* (very pale), a *Mesua* (whitish), *Aleurites Moluccana* (white), &c. &c.

The commonest of the indigenous palms in this neighbourhood are the kittool (*Caryota urens*) and the *Areca catechu*. Both grow almost as weeds in the garden, and nothing can be more dissimilar than their aspect,—the one bold and massive, the other all grace and beauty. The *Caryota* must not be judged by the attenuated specimens seen in English palm-houses. Here its decomposed fronds are peculiarly dense and heavy, forming an oblong, compact head of drooping, sad-coloured plumes, like gigantic hearse-plumes. Its trunk is from 40 to 60 feet high, thick and columnar, strongly contrasting with the slender *Areca* by its side, which nevertheless rears its glossy plumes to quite as great a height. The largest talipot (*Corypha umbraculifera*) in the garden has a trunk upwards of 80 feet high to the base of the leaves, and measures 12 feet at the butt, and 9 or 10 at five feet from the ground. It looks exactly like a column of solid masonry supporting a leafy crown.

Several fine clumps of bamboos, like tufts of ostrich feathers, 40 to 50 feet high, exhibit the family of grasses in their grandest form. The close-shaven lawns of England must not be looked for, but the grassy slopes of the arboretum, intersected by broad gravelled walks and ornamented with scattered trees, may well be compared to English park scenery. The grounds themselves are naturally of beautiful shape, and have been well laid out. Particularly to be admired is a new road, recently opened along the river banks, from one point of which is caught a charming view of the Peradenia Bridge, spanning the Mahawelle Ganga with a light openwork arch of *satinwood* (!), the garden affording a foreground, with wooded hills for a middle distance, and the eye ranging, beyond the bridge, far away into the open country.

But it is high time to speak of the more important departments of the garden—namely, the nursery, the spice-ground, the orchard, and the experimental garden.

In the nursery a stock is kept up of all useful and ornamental plants suitable for distribution in the colony; and young plants and seeds are sold, at very moderate prices, to the colonists, the proceeds being paid regularly into the public chest. Flowers and flowering shrubs are in much request, both by natives and planters, and the introduction of a handsome novelty of this description attracts many purchasers. Annual plants of the warmer parts of the temperate zone generally succeed well, but shrubby kinds are apt to form leafy branches

only. Sweetbriar grows long and lanky like a dog-rose, and rarely blossoms. *Fuschias*, unless care be taken to destroy the lateral leaf-buds, do not blossom; but the apple-tree is perhaps the greatest caricature, existing merely as a root-stock, which throws up tufts of slender twigs like those of a raspberry-bush, like which it is propagated by division of the root. Of course it never flowers.

The spice-ground, about a quarter of an acre in surface, is planted with nutmegs, cloves, allspice, cardamoms, and pepper, all of which succeed well. At present the nutmeg-trees are laden with fine ripening fruit, and are also fragrant with a profusion of flowers.

Six or eight acres are set apart as an orchard, and a considerable number of fruits grown with more or less success. Among these are the mango; the hog plum (*Spondias dulcis*); the rambutan (*Nephelium longan*), the litchi (*Nephelium litchi*); the durian; the bilimbi; limes, citrons, oranges, shaddocks, lemons, and wampi (*Cookia punctata*); the star-apple; soursop, custard-apple, and bullock's-heart; the rose-apple, jambos, guava, and pomegranate; the loquat; the numnum (*Cynometra cauliflora*); avocado pear; bread-fruit and jack; mulberry; granadilla and papaw; pine-apples; bananas of many kinds; lovi lovi (*Flacourtia inermis*), which makes a good preserve; Ceylon almond (*Terminalia catappa*) and *Canarium commune*, &c. Melons have been frequently tried; but though the plant grows freely, and the fruit swells well, the latter rarely comes to perfection. Pumpkins succeed much better.

In the experimental garden new objects of colonial culture and new varieties of fruits are raised and propagated for future dispersion. The tea shrub (*T. Bohea*) succeeds well, and might be grown to any extent at 1000 feet higher, if sufficient labour could be cheaply had. The chocolate (*Theobroma cacao*) bears abundantly, but almost every fruit, as it ripens, is destroyed by squirrels, which are extremely numerous. The Shiraz tobacco, a recent introduction, through the garden to the colony, has been grown with much success, and bids fair soon to supplant the bad varieties in cultivation. Cotton has been long, and is still, under experiment here and in other parts of the island; but it does not flourish, apparently owing to an insect which attacks the ripening pod, destroying the seed, and greatly damaging the wool. The Manila hemp (*Musa textilis*) grows well, and may eventually become an important item in colonial export. Arrow-root and tapioca, judging from the specimens grown in the garden, might be raised to any desired extent and of the best quality. Mr. Thwaites has recently introduced, and is carefully cultivating, the best West India ginger, that commonly grown in Ceylon being of very inferior quality. There have also been procured from the Mauritius, and recently from Kew, the best varieties of pine-apples, and great improvement in this fruit may consequently be anticipated.

So far for the Peradenia garden out of doors. But this notice would be very imperfect were I to omit to mention what is doing by Mr. Thwaites in his study, and, under his superintendence, at his office and in his house. Here a herbarium of Ceylon plants commenced by his predecessors, but arranged and greatly enlarged by himself, now contains about 3000 species; and novelties still come in, and must be expected, till the southern provinces of the island in particular have been fully explored. Two native draftsmen, in government pay, are constantly employed in making coloured drawings of all the plants, as they flower in the garden, or are brought in from the jungle. Their work is confined to representing the plant of the size of nature; for all the magnified portions are drawn, and all the dissections made by Mr. Thwaites himself, who devotes the best hours of almost every day to this most necessary, but laborious task. Many hundreds of carefully prepared and accurate drawings show what has been done in less than four years, and are a promise of still greater things to come. Should they be published (as is much to be desired) they will not only form an enduring monument to the author's fame, and also to that

of the Peradenia garden where they have been prepared, but they will be a most valuable contribution to botanical science. Their great value above most other similar botanical plates will consist in this, that the floral analysis has been in all cases made either from the living plant, or from specimens preserved in spirit, by the author himself, and not by his draftsmen. The errors incident to making dissections of dried specimens are hence avoided.

W. H. H.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

WHILE ex-Lord Mayor Challis, is extracting the reluctant guineas of the Exhibition Commissioners and Juries, for a statue of Prince Albert, a chalice they must drink of, attention is being called from a distant part of the country to the erection of a monument to Sir Isaac Newton. The birthplace of our great philosopher has no mark of the honour of his greatness, and the Mayor and Town Council of Grantham are appealing to the lovers of science and philosophy for subscriptions. Whatever differences of opinion there may be on the propriety of raising a statue to the living Albert, there can be none on the subject of a monument to the dead Newton, and we are glad to find that the scheme is backed by a very large and influential committee, with the sanction and patronage of the Royal Society, and that about £200. is subscribed for the purpose. We would, however, recommend the good people of Grantham to be prompt in their exertions, and not keep the subscription open too long. While public sympathy in the erection of monumental honours is being openly seared and discouraged for party glorification, there is little hope of a surplus for "a Newtonian College for Mathematicians and Men of Science in Reduced Circumstances." We advise the Corporation of Grantham to raise their monument at once with the fund they have been fortunate enough to collect, and, remembering the words of the Preacher, to engrave in relief upon the pedestal the forlorn but emblematic effigy of a dead lion.

At the Meeting of the Society of Antiquaries on Thursday last, Mr. Edward Hawkins, of the British Museum, laid on the table six small quarto volumes in manuscript, written by the Rev. Bryan Faussett, in the early part of the latter half of the last century. They contain a minute account of the writer's researches among the Anglo-Saxon tumuli of East Kent, of which it appears he opened nearly eight hundred. The notes of these diggings seem to be minute and valuable to the antiquary for the number of facts they record, which are penned in the priggish and pedantic style of the antiquaries of that period. The reverend gentleman does not appear to have possessed the shrewdness and intelligence of his contemporary Douglas; and his parsimony, or his dread of committing himself, seems to have prevented his giving his researches to the world, a circumstance the less to be regretted, since the entire collection has been preserved to this time. It has, we hear, been offered to the Trustees of the British Museum, who have declined to purchase it. Our French neighbours are just being awakened to the importance of studying their own national relics, and a *salle* is, we hear, prepared, or preparing, for the reception of antiquities from the Frank cemeteries. While this, however, is going on, the Trustees of the British Museum have actually refused to purchase, for a small sum of money, a collection truly national in every sense of the word. We hear that a remonstrance has been sent in by the Council of the Society of Antiquaries, and also by the Council of the Archaeological Institute, urging the importance of the Faussett Museum, and stating that an offer has been made by the French authorities as well as by a private individual in this country, for the purchase of the entire collection. We also learn that Mr. Wylie, a gentleman well known for his warm attachment to the study of our English Antiquities, and the author of a work on the subject of Anglo-Saxon remains, has made an offer to present, as a gift to the Trustees, the fine collection of relics obtained by him from

an ancient cemetery at Fairford, in Gloucestershire, provided the Faussett collection is purchased for the national museum. The liberality of such an offer needs no comment of ours, and we will only express our hope that the example may be imitated by others. Nor is this the only instance: we are informed that the collection of Anglo-Saxon relics, exhumed by Mr. Akerman this autumn from the ancient cemetery near Salisbury, is at the desire of Lord Folkestone to be presented to the British Museum, and will shortly be placed in a situation where they may be viewed by visitors. The Faussett collection, it appears, contains a vast assemblage of objects, including vases in pottery and glass, weapons, utensils and personal ornaments, illustrating a period of our history of which we have the fewest and faintest records. Some of the fibule are of great beauty, and one is said to be altogether unique, and of considerable value. But it is not on account of their artistic worth that we desire to see these relics deposited in a place where they may be inspected and studied by the present and succeeding generations; the information they afford is priceless, and we trust we shall not lie under the reproach of having neglected them.

Mr. Ruskin has been delighting crowded audiences at the Edinburgh Philosophical Association, by his lectures on Architecture and Painting. The last lecture was upon "Turner and his works." After a sketch of the history of painting, and a masterly analysis of the peculiarities of various schools, he proceeded to describe the excellences of Turner, who was declared to have beat most of the old masters even in the paths in which they had excelled. To Claude and Salvator Rosa he was immeasurably superior, and while he gave full scope to inventive genius, he rivalled the best works of the schools of Giotto, Leonardo da Vinci, and Titian, in chasteness of thought, accuracy of drawing, and fidelity to nature. At present, Mr. Ruskin said, the merits of Turner were not duly appreciated, but the time would come when his name would stand in English history with those of Shakespeare and Bacon. He did not mean in greatness of mind, but as the representative and ideal of excellence in his own department of art. In originality he was even superior to these great names; for while Shakespeare completed what Æschylus had partially done, and Bacon what Aristotle had attempted, Turner had no predecessor in his grand and faithful representations of nature. The lecturer also gave some account of the personal character and habits of Turner, stating, from his knowledge of him, that there had been much misrepresentation on this subject, and that the man, as well as his works, had not been understood by the age in which he lived. The enthusiasm of Mr. Ruskin certainly led him into some exaggeration, but the vigour and independence of the lecturer were remarkable, and even those who might dissent from his too dogmatic assertions, listened with earnest pleasure to one whose works have gained for him a reputation and authority in questions connected with art.

A meeting of the authorities of the parishes of Westminster has this week been held, and resolutions adopted with the view of securing extramural sepulture for the densely populated district. Of nine parishes forming the city of Westminster, only one has yet provided ground at a distance from the houses of the living, and that to a limited extent. The population being about 200,000, and the rental above 1,000,000*l.*, there ought to be no delay in such an object. The vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, presided at the meeting. The sanitary bearing of the question has now been abundantly brought before the public, not to speak of the desecration in a variety of forms constantly witnessed. On one of the frosty days this week we saw boys sliding on the flat grave-stones in the churchyard of St. Margaret's, Westminster, beside the Abbey. We trust that extramural cemeteries on a scale worthy of the wealth and requirements of the metropolis will before long be established. At the Westminster meeting it was proposed that arrangements should be made

with the projectors of the Woking Cemetery, by far the grandest and most feasible scheme for a general metropolitan 'city of the dead.' A committee of inquiry was appointed by the meeting. More is to be expected in England on this, as on other questions, from private associated enterprise, than official or government aid.

An interesting discovery has been made between the towns of Acerno and Scafati, on the Sarno, in Naples, that of an ancient villa at some distance under ground. The villa does not, with the exception of arcades, bear any resemblance to the houses of Pompeii and Herculaneum. It contains ten rooms, and in it were found two agricultural instruments, and two skeletons,—one of a man, the other of a large bird. At Pompeii we learn that excavations are still going on; the most recent discoveries consist of some skeletons,—one of them that of a young woman with gold rings on the fingers. With one of these skeletons were the remains of a dog; the animal evidently had been buried at the same time. At Tournai, in Belgium, the remains of a Roman burial-place have been found, and some funeral urns have been dug up.

The opening of the Bury Athenæum on Wednesday was celebrated by a public meeting, over which Lord Stanley, M.P., presided. The foundation stone of the building was laid about three years ago by the present Earl of Derby, then Lord Stanley, the ground and a handsome donation having been given by the late Earl of Derby. Speeches appropriate to the occasion were delivered by Lord Stanley, and by the Bishop of Manchester, the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, Mr. Cheetham, M.P., and other friends of popular education. The new Athenæum at Bury takes the place of a former institution, now found inadequate to the wants of the town. Lancashire seems to take the lead in the successful establishment of such institutions, and also in other matters connected with the physical welfare of the working classes. The recent report of Lord Shaftesbury, as to the improvements in the dwelling-houses, water-supply, and other arrangements, affecting the comfort and health of the people of Manchester, ought to stir up emulation in the corporations and official boards of other great towns, and of the metropolis most of all, where the need for the intellectual and social improvement of the working classes is greatest.

We are happy to learn that the project of providing a million copies of the New Testament for circulation in China has been liberally responded to throughout the country. Above two hundred thousand have been already subscribed for, and public meetings are being held in different places, at which the speakers urge the propriety of embracing the present opportunity of introducing Christian knowledge and civilization into that empire. Through the labours of learned and zealous missionaries the translation of the scriptures is complete, and from the printing-presses already at work in China the proposed issue of a million copies can be effected at a cost considerably below 20,000*l.* The insurgents still continue their successful career, but whatever may be the issue of the present revolution, the old exclusiveness of the celestial empire is broken up, and the country is now open to the influences which have caused other nations to advance in knowledge and civilization.

The London and North-Western Railway Company have organized examinations and offered prizes for progress in knowledge among the young men in their employment at Crewe. The candidates for the first two prizes will be exercised in mechanics, the elements of mechanical drawing, English grammar, the elements of the British constitution, physical geography, and the history of the church; and the first annual examination, in October, 1854, will be conducted by one of the Government Inspectors of Schools. This is a step in the right direction, and an example which might be followed by other companies with advantage to their servants and much credit to themselves.

At Exeter Hall, on Tuesday evening, the second of the series of lectures to the Young Men's Chris-

tian Association was delivered by Mr. Gough, who has become well known in this country and America as a temperance advocate. His lecture, which was on 'Habit,' was a display of rhetorical power, of philosophical principle, and practical tact, remarkable in a man in great measure self-educated, and who has only recently devoted himself to public speaking. The lecture was worthy of following the masterly address of Sir James Stephen, of which we gave a report last week.

The visit of Prince Albert to Cambridge, with the Duke of Brabant, has caused a break this week in the monotony of university life. The Prince, as Chancellor, took part in some official business during his stay, but the more interesting incidents of his visit were such as occurred out of the usual routine, as the attendance at Professor Sedgwick's lecture, and at that of Professor Willis on mechanics, and the inspection of the library and observatory.

Russian newspapers contain an account of the eruption of the volcano of Mount Korabeteff in the Crimea. The eruption was preceded by a rumbling noise, which the inhabitants of the vicinity took to be distant thunder, though they were rather surprised at it, as the weather was serene and the sky without a cloud. For thirty years previously no eruption of the volcano had taken place, and it was supposed to be extinguished.

In a letter to the Edinburgh 'Witness,' from New Zealand, dated Nelson, May 9th, the Rev. T. D. Nicholson reports the unexpected appearance of the last comet there on the 30th of April. On the 7th May, 11 A.M., there was a smart shock of an earthquake, followed by a great fall in the barometer, and a heavy storm of wind and rain.

The Sunday School system has sustained the loss of one of its most zealous promoters in the decease of Mrs. Louisa Davids, wife of the Rev. T. W. Davids of Colchester. Mrs. Davids devoted herself, from a very early age, to the education of the young; and some years since, when a prize of one hundred guineas was offered for the best essay on Sunday Schools, she was the successful competitor.

The Academy of Sciences of Paris has nominated a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Biot, Mathieu, Duperrey, Poncelet, Poinso, Chasles, and Combes, to draw a list of candidates for the distinguished office of perpetual secretary, vacant by the death of M. Arago.

A concert is about to be given, in Norwich, for the benefit of the widow and family of the late Dr. Bexfield, organist of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, and composer of the Oratorio "Israel Restored," and other musical works. Her Majesty has forwarded Mrs. Bexfield, who has been left in a position of comparative indigence, a cheque for 20l.; and has also acceded to the request made to the Lord Chamberlain, by the promoters of the concert, for the services of her private chamber band. Dr. Bexfield received his musical education in Norwich.

The Italian Theatre at Paris commenced its season on the 15th, under the management of Colonel Ragani. The opening piece was Rossini's ever popular *Cenerentola*, and Madame Alboni, Napoléone Rossi, Tamburini, Gardoni, and a *débutante*, Mdlle. Cambard, a Frenchwoman, but bearing the Italianised name of Cambardi, figured in it. Alboni was received with enthusiasm; and she well deserved it, as, though not one whit less stout than she used to be—*au contraire*—she sang with all her wonted sweetness. Tamburini, too, was heartily welcomed; but he is not the Tamburini of former days. Gardoni and Rossi sung well, and Mdlle. Cambardi made a hit. On Tuesday *Lucrezia Borgia* was produced. Mario and Parodi made their re-appearance in it, and were warmly greeted. Alboni and Tamburini also sustained parts in the same opera. Altogether the campaign has commenced with more *éclat* than had been expected; and the new manager has succeeded in letting more boxes for the whole season than he had hoped for. His *troupe*, though

hastily got together, is by no means a bad one (though perhaps it wants what the French call *ensemble*), and he promises a constant succession of novelties. He deserves success, therefore; but whether, in spite of the favourable auspices of his opening, he will be able to command it, is a different question.

Halévy is writing a new two-act opera for the Grand Opéra at Paris. Meyerbeer's comic opera, the *Northern Star*, is still promised at the Opéra Comique, for the first or second month in the new year; but this great *maestro* subjects singers and musicians to such a severe and laborious drilling, and requires them to be so very perfect, that it is by no means sure the promise will be kept.

A new ballet, in three acts, called *Jovita*, has been produced at the Grand Opéra at Paris. It displays no great originality nor merit of any kind; but serves tolerably well to set off the skill and the graces of our new *danseuse*, Mdlle. Rosati. This fair damsel has been most favourably received by the Parisians, and seems likely to obtain European celebrity.

Rachel has made her appearance at St. Petersburg, but she has met with a great mortification—the Emperor looks coldly on her. His Majesty not only declined to attend her first performance, but had the regular French company to perform before him, in his own palace, on the very evening of her *début*. Deprived of the Imperial countenance, the unfortunate *tragedienne* will not obtain that of the aristocracy. The reason why the Emperor neglects her is supposed to be that he is deeply offended at her having taken with her a most wretched *troupe*, one hardly good enough to play in a village barn. Considering the immense sum she is to receive for her expedition, she ought certainly to have engaged tolerably decent performers to accompany her.

An elegant comedy has been produced this week at the Lyceum, entitled *A Bachelor of Arts*. The plot is ingenious, the characters striking and well filled, and the scenery and dresses tasteful in the highest degree.

The dramatic event of the week in Paris is the production, at the Théâtre du Gymnase, of a new five-act play by the younger Dumas, under the title *Diane de Lys*. The piece is taken mainly from the author's novel, the 'Dame aux Perles,' and at one time was destined to bear the same title. The theatrical censors positively refused to allow it to be performed because they considered it of an immoral tendency; but Louis Napoleon was appealed to, and he took off the prohibition. Why it should have been objected to in Paris is hard to conceive; for, though the basis of it is glaring, impudent, barefaced, scandalous adultery, and though some of its scenes are almost revoltingly immoral, yet adultery and immorality have been paraded so often and so cynically in books and on the stage, that the Parisian public must, one would think, be perfectly familiarized with them. Be this as it may, the piece has obtained a decided success, and seems likely to run a career of 'glory' fully equal to that of the famous *Dame aux Camélias*, by the same author. Nor, looking at the thing merely in a literary point of view, can it be denied that this success is deserved. For the piece is well constructed; it is, excepting certain too long conversations, spiritedly and elegantly written. It contains some scenes of really remarkable dramatic power; and it has a most striking and effective *dénouement*. One or two of the characters, too, are finely drawn; one of them in particular—an unsuccessful sculptor, tormented by a termagant wife—is capital. But the chief personage, though portrayed with much skill, is hateful. She is represented as a married lady of high rank, who falls passionately in love, at first sight, with a young artist; who abandons her husband for him, and imprudently braves the condemnation of society; who, sternly rebuked by the husband, bitterly taunts him, and threatens to bring her lover to his very house to defy him; and who finally goads him to shoot her lover dead. This character was played by Madame Rose Chéri;

and, though entirely out of her ordinary line, she made it, spite of its hatefulness, painfully interesting, almost terrible. Bressant was the lover, and he acted in his usual finished style. The other parts were admirably sustained. Indeed, the Gymnase company is one of the very best in Paris, and on this occasion its best members did their best. We suppose the piece will be translated into English, but it will require considerable modifications to make it suit an English auditory.

M. de Planard, a French dramatist of considerable note, has just died at Paris, aged upwards of 70. He wrote more than fifty works, most of them comic operas, and some of the latter were set to music by Herold, Caraffa, Halévy, Ambroise, Thomas, and other eminent composers. At Rome, Döhler, a pianist of no mean talent, has departed this life. Rabbi Spire of Posen, one of the most learned Talmudists of the day, died lately. The Russian journals announce the death of Elizabeth Christiani, a violoncellist of celebrity.

There is a talk of erecting a new theatre at Paris, near the Hôtel de Ville, in the prolongation of the Rue de Rivoli—one of the finest streets in Europe. The theatre, it is said, is to be called 'The People's House,' and is to be set apart for the production of pieces calculated to amuse and instruct the working classes exclusively.

M. Reber, composer of the comic opera, *Le Père Gaillard*, and of other works of merit, has been elected a member of the Musical Section of the Academy of Fine Arts at Paris, in the room of M. Onslow, deceased; and Count de Nieuwerkerke, director of the Museum of the Louvre, and a sculptor of much merit, has been elected a free member of the same Academy, in the section of Sculpture and Painting.

The *Prophète* has been performed at Turin, with Mdlle. Stoltz as *Fides*.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ANTIQUARIES.—Nov. 17th.—The Society resumed their meetings for the session, the Viscount Mahon, President, in the chair. Numerous presents of books and pamphlets were announced. Among these were two volumes of proclamations, (a very valuable collection), presented by Mr. Wm. Salt. Mr. O. Smith, the comedian, also presented a proclamation of the reign of Queen Anne, dated Windsor, 18th June, 1704, for settling and ascertaining the current rates of foreign coins in Her Majesty's colonies and plantations. The draft of the proposed new statutes was read by the Secretary, and the ballot for them announced for Thursday, December 1st. Mr. William Boyne, of Headingley, near Leeds, and Mr. G. O. Hopton, of Brunswick-square, were elected Fellows. Mr. Delamotte exhibited some singularly beautiful photographs of remarkable Irish antiquities, comprising the bell of St. Patrick, the miosach, the shrine of St. Manchan, the hand of St. Lachin, &c. Mr. Weld exhibited to the Society Sir Martin Frobisher's arm chair, which had recently been purchased by him at a sale in Yorkshire. It once formed a portion of the gallant navigator's furniture in Altoff's Hall, near Wakefield, which, with its manor and grounds, were given to him as a reward for his services in the search for the north-west passage. The grant was made in 1578, after his return from his third Arctic voyage. The chair is of the ordinary description, with a carved back, on the lower part of which is inscribed M. FRUBISHER, in gothic characters. A note from Mr. Edward Hawkins, of the British Museum, was next read, introducing to the notice of the Society six volumes in manuscript, containing accounts, by the Rev. Bryan Faussett, of excavations made by him in Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in the county of Kent, nearly a century ago. It is said that the collection of remains thus acquired is still entire, and has been offered lately to the Trustees of the British Museum, who have declined the purchase. Mr. Akerman then read his report on the researches made by him in an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Harnham Hill, near Salisbury. During the past sum-

mer his attention was attracted by a notice in a Wiltshire paper, of the finding of a boss of a shield and an iron spear-head in a field called the "Low Field," below Harnham-hill, looking towards Salisbury. He at once concluded that the spot was a Saxon burial-place, by its being called the Low Field, a designation evidently derived from the fact of the place having once been covered with Helews or tumuli. The permission of Viscount Folkestone, the landlord, and W. Fawcett, Esq., the tenant of the field, having been obtained, he proceeded to the spot on the 21st of September. The labourers by his directions dug close to the place where the spear-head and boss had been found, and the discovery of a skeleton and another boss was the result. A great many skeletons—more than sixty in number—were exhumed during the excavations, which were carried on, without any intermission, for fifteen days. Nearly all the skeletons had relics with them, as is usually the case with Anglo-Saxon interments. Two very remarkable and curious objects were discovered in addition to the relics commonly found; namely, a wedding-ring, and a fork of iron with a handle of deer's horn. Several pairs of fibule were found, but in ornament and shape they were different from those taken from the graves of this period in other parts of England, resembling generally those found in the Isle of Wight. The skeletons were found lying with their heads to the west; but one or two deviated from this arrangement. The bodies were protected by large flint stones—no traces of coffins were to be seen. In immediate contact with the remains were fragments of Romano-British pottery, which were evidently not broken purposely, but picked up by the way-side. These shards have already been noticed both by English and continental antiquaries, and have been supposed to illustrate a passage in Shakespeare (*Hamlet*, act v. scene 1). He was for a long time in doubt as to the propriety of this explanation, but the state of the fragments found in the Harnham graves seems to decide the question. They are all worn at the edges, and all appear to belong to the Roman or Romano-British age, at any rate, to a period prior to that of these interments. Several of the bodies were unaccompanied by that very characteristic deposit—the knife, and, in fact, by any relic whatever. He knew not to what to ascribe this fact. They may have been abstracted, since the laws of the Franks denounce with very heavy penalties those who shall despoil a corpse either before or after interment. Two objects of iron were discovered, which he considered implements for striking a light. Similar objects were found in the Frank graves at Selzen, near Mayence, and Scheffer, in his history of Lapland, written in the latter half of the 17th century, tells us that such of the people of that country as had not been converted to Christianity were interred with materials for procuring fire. Animal teeth had been found in the graves at Harnham, and had been pronounced by Professor Owen to be those of sheep, or goats, and oxen. The writer was disposed to consider these remains as evidence of the funeral feasts held by the Pagan Saxons over the graves of their dead, a practice denounced in the capitularies of the Frank kings, while St. Boniface, in one of his epistles, speaks distinctly of bulls and goats as the animals immolated on such occasions. Mr. Akerman exhibited a map of a considerable extent of land in the valley of the Avon, reaching from Britford to the western end of the county, and including, perhaps with Harnham, many places mentioned in a grant of Cenwealh, the second Christian king of the West Saxons, to the church of Winchester. Aided by Mr. Josiah Goodwin, of Salisbury, he had been enabled to identify the chief localities mentioned in the land limits appended to the charter, which was perhaps granted in or about the year 646. This charter is important, as probably the latest period of the interments at Harnham, although it must be borne in mind that Pagan practices lingered among our Anglo-Saxon ancestors after their conversion. This report was followed by one from Dr. Thurnham, 'On the Crania of the Skeletons.' In the opinion of this gentleman the ancient inhabitants of Harnham were of

a humble grade, probably of the lower rank of the Anglo-Saxon settlers and conquerors, an opinion which the relics discovered seem to confirm.

ASIATIC.—*Nor. 19th.*—The Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie in the chair. Mr. Norris read a paper upon 'The Assyrian and Babylonian weights which were brought to England from Nineveh by Mr. Layard, and are now deposited in the British Museum.' He began by observing, that some of these weights were of bronze, and formed into lions, with handles; and others were of marble, in the shape of ducks. They had excited some attention from their workmanship. There were inscriptions upon them, which were in two distinct characters, the usual cuneiform Assyrian, and the cursive writing occasionally, though rarely, found in the Nineveh relics; but no one had taken the trouble to attempt a decipherment. His attention had been drawn to the subject in the course of an investigation into the weight of the Babylonian talent; and he thought that the inscription upon the largest lion-weight was in the Chaldean language and Phœnician character; and, though imperfectly formed, that it might be read, *הקדש ליהוה*, meaning fifteen manehs. He was strengthened in this opinion by seeing that the side of the weight was marked by fifteen lines deeply scored upon it. As the talent contained 60 manehs, and the weight in question was of 41 lbs. troy, the result would argue a talent of 164 lbs.,—more than double the weight that has been generally attributed to the talent by Greek authority. This induced him to see the weight itself, having hitherto worked upon the plate given in Mr. Layard's book; and he found his reading confirmed. He then went through all the weights, above twenty in number, and found that the inscriptions upon one-half of them gave results like that first obtained, while those on the remainder showed a weight of only half the amount of the first, or 82 lbs. to the talent; and several of those which showed the smaller weight were decidedly Babylonian in their character. He therefore stated his conviction that there were two systems of weights used in the Assyrian empire,—a talent of 164 lbs. weight in the northern province of Assyria proper, and one of 82 lbs. in the province of Babylonia; just as at this day a pint in Scotland is equal to a quart in England. It was an additional subject of interest, that the weight of the Babylonian talent was equal to seventy-two attic minæ; the difference, which may be attributed to loss by corrosion and wear, was barely two percent. Some of the weights were marked *הקדש ליהוה*, 'royal weight,' and one appeared to have the word *קדש*, 'holy,' upon it; these words being actually used in the Bible to distinguish two different kinds of weights, of which the latter is always translated, 'weight of the sanctuary;' and it is a fact that the difference between the two is said by old Rabbinical writers to be what we find in the weight in question,—the weight of the sanctuary being double that of the king. Mr. Norris afterwards went into some investigations as to the value of the Hebrew weights, in the course of which he adduced reasons for concluding, from the authority of the Bible, that the shekel was one-fiftieth part of a maneh; and he thought the smallest weight in the Museum, a little lion weighing 1 oz. 14 dwts. 21 grs., was a weight of three shekels. The numeral three was quite plain upon it; but he admitted that the letters which he had read shekel were exceedingly doubtful. There can, however, be no doubt that if the weight of the maneh was fifty shekels, for which there appears to be positive authority, this lion-weight must have been when new very near indeed to three shekels. Mr. Norris concluded by observing, that although much of what he had stated as to the identity of value in the Jewish and Assyrian weight might be, and really was, based upon hypothetical grounds, there could be no doubt that the language in which the short inscriptions were written was that of Canaan, or Phœnicia; and apparently, so far as might be inferred from such brief legends, rather like the Chaldean of the Bible and Targums than

Hebrew. The cuneiform character contained the names of Divanubara, Tiglath-pileser, and Sennacherib; and thus afforded an evidence of the ancient date at which the merchants of Phœnicia had penetrated among the nations around them. These weights were no doubt used by some of those merchants of Tyros whose "heart was lifted up because of their riches," and whose great city was ruined by Nebuchadnezzar, soon after the utterance of the prophecies of Ezekiel, announcing its downfall, together with that of its destroyer. Most of them are more ancient in date than the time of Ezekiel, and were certainly buried in the ruins which he foretold.

LINNEAN.—*Nor. 15th.*—Thomas Bell, Esq., President, in the chair. The President presented Dr. Spix's magnificent work on the Amphibia collected during his journey in the interior of Brazil, in 1817-20. Mr. Robert Brown presented a portrait in crayons, by Russell, of the late Aylmer Bourke Lambert, author of the 'History of the genus Pintos,' monograph of 'Cinchona,' &c. Mr. Brown also exhibited an extensive series of Tasmanian flowers, beautifully modelled in wax by Miss Luckman, of Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land. Read a notice of *Trichosanthes heteroclitia*, Roxb., forming a new genus of *Cucurbitaceæ*, under the name of *Hodgsonia*; by Dr. J. D. Hooker and Mr. Thomas Thomson. This very remarkable plant, which has an unusually wide geographical range, extending from the Sikkim-Himalaya in the north, to the island of Penang in the south, is described as one of the handsomest and most curious of the whole natural family, with the inflorescence and flower of *Trichosanthes*, but in fruit widely different from any of the extensive natural order to which it belongs. It was well described by Roxburgh as a species of *Trichosanthes*, and was formerly cultivated in the Botanic Garden, Calcutta, though now lost. Root branching, stem climbing, for 80 to 100 feet, over lofty trees. Leaves alternate, stalked, evergreen, palmately 3-5 lobed, bearing at the base of each petiole, on one side, a 2-3fid tendril, and on the other, a subaxillary horn, conical body, usually considered as a stipule, but of a very remarkable character. The flowers, which appear in May, are large and very handsome, about four inches long, the limb three inches in diameter, yellow, inodorous; the fringes of the petals 5-6 inches long; twisted calyx, with an elongated tube, five-sided; stamens five, triadelphous. Ovary one-locular, with three parietal placentæ; ovules six. The male's flowers are disposed in long bracteate spikes; the female's axillary and solitary. The fruit, which ripens in autumn and winter, is a berry, 6-10 inches across, of a fine deep red-brown colour, tomentose externally, with whitish pulp. Seeds erect, very large, each double, resembling a two-celled nut, covered with an adherent pulpy coat, which penetrates deep fissures in the face of the larger seed. Outer surface of the testa rather corky or spongy; inner smooth and polished. Cotyledons plane, white, very oily, radicle small, conical. The seeds are eaten by the natives of Sikkim. Roxburgh's trivial name of *heteroclitia*, though originally intended to imply that the plant varies from its congeners of the genus *Trichosanthes*, has been retained for the species, which from the anomalous structure of the fruit, may be regarded as *heteroclitia*, in respect of the natural family *Cucurbitaceæ*, to which it undoubtedly belongs. The genus is named in honour of B. H. Hodgson, Esq., F.L.S., resident at Darjeeling, where the plant was discovered, and whose scientific services in the Himalayas justly entitle him to the compliment. Read also a paper on '*Potamogeton flabellatus*,' Bab., by Mr. Charles C. Babington. Mr. Babington having occasion to spend some days at Bath, availed himself of the opportunity to endeavour to determine the doubtful pond-weeds and having been successful in obtaining abundance of specimens in a young state, he was enabled to determine with certainty that they belonged to the species which he had described

under the name of *P. flabellatus*. It is probable that this species was known to Hudson, and that it is the same which he described under the name *P. marinus*, from salt-water ditches near Sheerness, and in the Isle of Sheppy. It has been gathered at Denver, Norfolk; in the canal near Bath; near Coventry; at Gravesend; between Heel and Hedon; near Burnham, Norfolk; near Yarmouth; in the river Lea, at Hertford and Ware; and in the canal near Tring.

ETHNOLOGICAL.—Nov. 9th.—Dr. Conolly, D.C.L., Vice-President, in the chair. "On the Araucanian Indians of South Chili," by Don Ignatius Domeyko, communicated by Francis Marriage, Esq. The following description of the Araucanian Indians of South Chili is taken from a MS. about to be published on Araucania by Professor Domeyko. The number of the Araucanians is unknown. There are about ten or twelve thousand in the district of the two Chilani alone; they are of swarthy complexion, less ruddy, but clearer than that of the other indigenous Americans. The face is somewhat oblong, eyes large, lively, and expressive, with narrow, well-arched eyebrows. The countenance is more like the Caucasian than the Mongolian type. The nose is less broad and more prominent than that of the Indians of the North; in some it is aquiline; the lips are well formed, the lower one a little prominent; the hair black, harsh, and dense, but never curling. There is an expression of calm haughty stubbornness. There is, however, a considerable variety both in feature and expression. The Araucanian Indian's features are less Indian, and his complexion also less coppery in colour than the Indians of the northern provinces of Chili. The Araucanian knows what is just and unjust, and distinguishes honesty and corruption, generosity and meanness. By a sentiment of natural intuition, or of an obscure tradition, he bears as engraven on his mind a moral code of laws, and is disposed to comply with its requirements, so far as his passions and animal inclinations, unbridled by any commandment or divine precept, will allow him. In domestic life they are sociable and liberal, but jealously preserve the rights of their homestead. No guest enters a house without the knowledge and permission of the owner. When guests have entered the house by invitation, the owner approaches, gives his hand to each, invites them to feel at ease, and having conducted them to their appointed seats, sits down in front of them. He then with great seriousness makes a long and elaborate discourse of compliments which may occupy a full half-hour. The guests silently evince respect, and are as solemn as if they were concerned in some religious act. While these ceremonials of etiquette are taking place, refreshment is being prepared in another room. The discourse ended, the features relax, the tone is changed, and general conversation on ordinary topics succeeds. It is customary on the conclusion of the discourse for the owner to rise from his seat, and, if the guests be worthy, to embrace each three times, placing his hand alternately to the right and to the left.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Nov. 7th.—J. O. Westwood, Esq., V.P., in the chair. M. Henri Jekel, of Paris, was elected a Foreign Member of the Society. Several donations were announced, including some fine and new *Lepidoptera* from Bogota, by T. J. Stevens, Esq., corresponding M.E.S., and a box of English *Lepidoptera*, among which was a gynandromorphous *Smerinthus populi*, by Rev. Joseph Greene, Mr. E. Shepherd exhibited a new British moth, *Noctuacobra*, taken in Scotland, by Mr. Weaver. Mr. S. Stevens exhibited a quantity of butterflies, received from Nicaragua, in paper envelopes, the wings being closed over the body of the insects, and they had thus travelled safely in a small space. Mr. Shield sent a new *Nepitula*, the larva of which was found near Dublin, mining leaves of

Rumex acetosa. Mr. Douglas exhibited some tubular galls, formed on the leaves of ground ivy by the larvae of *Cecidomyia bursaria*, Bremi, of which he read an account from the volume of the 'Linnaea Entomologica' just published. Mr. Boyd exhibited several rare *Lepidoptera* recently caught in the New Forest. Mr. Curtis exhibited various parasites, taken from six different kinds of insects. Mr. Clifford sent a sample of a quantity of pearl barley, rendered useless by the attacks of *Anobium panicum*, a beetle frequently injurious to farinaceous substances. Mr. T. Desvignes exhibited specimens of *Ichneumon paludator*, a new species, of which he read a description. Mr. Baly read a paper 'On the Characters of *Paralina*, a new genus of *Chrysomelidae*.' Mr. Smith exhibited a living *Anthophorobia*, now more than a month old, and read a series of observations on the structure and habits of this singular parasitic insect, which excited considerable discussion among the members present. The Chairman was inclined to doubt the correctness of the statement, that the insect possessed ocelli, being at the same time destitute of reticulated eyes, at least such an instance was not hitherto known. Mr. Wallace read the commencement of a paper 'On the Habits of the Butterflies of the Amazonian Valley,' and it will be continued at the next meeting.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Nov. 22nd.—Dr. Gray, Vice-President, in the chair. Mr. Gould exhibited specimens of two new species of humming birds from Peru, which he described under the names of *Spathura scisiura* and *Calothorax micurus*. The latter is particularly distinguished by the extremely minute proportions, as well as the form of the tail feathers. The Secretary read two papers, by Messrs. A. and H. Adams, on new species of shells from the collection of Mr. Cuming. They described twenty-four species of *Cones*, and twelve species of *Pleptrema*, a genus now established for the first time for the reception of a group allied to *Cassidula*, in which *Auricula labrella* of Deshayes, and *Pedipes inaequalis* of C. B. Adams, are included. Dr. Gray communicated an account of the molluscous animals upon which he proposes to found two new genera, under the names of *Janella* (type, *J. bidenticulata*), and *Pfeifferia* (type, *Pf. micans*). The former type has been recently received at the British Museum from New Zealand. The latter forms part of the collection of Mr. Cuming. After referring to Professor Owen's paper on the anatomy of the Walrus, read at the last meeting, Dr. Gray gave a notice of the various published figures of that animal which had appeared in the works of the older naturalists, from Gesner in 1560, and Olaus Magnus in 1568, downwards. The earliest figures are purely imaginary. The first which conveys any true notion of the animal is that given by 'H. G. A.' in a 'History of Spitzbergen,' published at Amsterdam in 1633, by 'Hessel Gerrard A.' It includes the female and young; and was copied by Laets in his 'Description of North America,' 1633, by Johnston in his 'History of Fish,' 1657; and through this last, by Shaw in his 'Zoology.' An interesting series of North American fish were exhibited by Captain Herd of the Hudson's Bay Company's Marine, and the meeting was then adjourned to the 13th of December.

GEOLOGICAL.—Nov. 16th.—Prof. E. Forbes, President, in the chair. E. W. Binney, Esq., was elected a Fellow. The following communications were read:—1. 'On the Superficial Deposits of the Isle of Wight,' J. Trimmer, Esq., F.G.S. The author observed that the boulder clay of the Lower Erratics is not found on the island, but that an abundance of flint gravel, probably of the age of the Upper Erratics of the eastern counties, occurs. With this gravel is often associated a loamy deposit, termed by the author 'warp-drift,' which is of comparatively recent origin, and was not formed until after the denuded surface on which it rests had existed some time under subaerial conditions.

Here and there it covers calcareous deposits of recent origin, containing land and fresh-water shells of existing species. Mr. Trimmer described an occurrence of this marl, with shells and vegetable remains, at Tolland's Bay; and a similar deposit was noticed some years since, by Mr. Bowerbank, as occurring at Gore Cliff. 2. 'On the Geology of some parts of India,' by Lieut. Sankey, R.E., communicated by Prof. Ansted, F.G.S. In this paper the author gave a very general sketch of the distribution of different classes of rocks in central and southern India. The 'red-soil' and 'cale-tuff' (Kemkur) of the granite districts, the 'black-soil' of the basaltic districts, the 'laterite' of the Konkun coast and other districts, called also locally 'iron-clay' and 'lithomarge,' and perhaps the diamond-breccia of southern India, are superficial deposits. The age of the immense basalt or trap formation of central India is unknown. At Nagpoor, Jubbulpoor, and in the Sichel Hills, it over- and under-lies a freshwater deposit. In the same district sandstone and limestone occur to a great extent, the former known as the diamond sandstone, the latter characterized by fish-remains of the Jurassic age. But the relations of these rocks with the basalt are not evident. Lieut. Sankey makes especial reference to the late researches of the Rev. Messrs. Hislop and Hunter, in the vicinity of Nagpoor, and concludes by detailing the observations made by himself and Dr. Jerdon in the Kamptee, Oomrait, and Pachmura districts (about lat. 22° S, and long. 78° 46') on the several outcrops of fossiliferous sandstone there met with. Most of the fossils are plants, *Glossopiteris*, *Phyllothea*, *Vertebraria*, &c., such as occur in the Burdwan coal of North-East India. The general aspect of this flora somewhat resembles that of the Australian coal-fields.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday.**—Geographical, 8½ p.m.—(Journey into the Balkan or Mount Haemus, with a comparison of the routes pursued by Darius, Alexander, and Diebitch, by Lieut.-Gen. A. Jochemus.)
—British Architects, 8 p.m.
—Institute of Actuaries, 7 p.m.—(H. W. Porter, Esq., on the Education of an Actuary.)
—School of Mines.—(Dr. Hofmann on Chemistry, 10 a.m.)—(Professor Hunt on Physics, 12 a.m.)
Tuesday.—Geological, 8 p.m.—(1. On the occurrence of Fossil Insects in the Wealden Strata at Hastings, Sussex, by Messrs. W. R. and H. Binfield; 2. On the Age and Character of the Gravels at Farringdon, Berks, by D. Sharpe, Esq., F.G.S.)
—Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.
—School of Mines.—(Dr. Percy on Metallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Professor Smyth on Mineralogy, 2 p.m.)
Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.
—School of Mines.—(Professor Hunt on Physics, 12 p.m.)—(Professor Smyth on Mineralogy, 2 p.m.)
Thursday.—Royal, 8½ p.m.
—Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
—School of Mines.—(Dr. Hofmann on Chemistry, 10 a.m.)—(Professor Smyth on Mineralogy, 2 p.m.)
Friday.—School of Mines.—(Dr. Percy on Chemistry, 10 a.m.)—(Professor Hunt on Physics, 12 a.m.)
Saturday.—Medical, 8 p.m.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Berlin, November 13th.
I WENT this morning to see the collection of pictures of Mr. Ravené. He is a man of business, who deals in iron, and has made a considerable fortune. He displays a taste for art, and in particular for fine pictures, of which he has accumulated a good many, and placed them to advantage in the large rooms of his fine house. The first thing that attracted my attention on passing through the large folding doors opening into the street, was a broad iron staircase, covered in the centre with a carpet in the English fashion. I ascended it, and met on the top with a man-servant, who led me the way to the so-called gallery, a spacious room with a glass roof, in order to secure for the pictures the light from above. A very distinguished man, the engraver, Mr. Tahgert, had told me to pay attention to the pictures of

Hasenclever, of which I should see many in this collection; and actually, when stopping near the entrance, and looking up to the wall before me, my eye was caught by a most beautiful moonshine landscape, from which came forward, as it were, a watchman, screaming with all his might, his mouth wide open, "Die Uhr hat zehn geschlagen! Zehn ist die Uhr;" his faithful dog crouching by his side, and the lantern in his hand throwing a pale yellow light upon his face, while everything around bore the shades of night, lighted up by a white ghastly moonlight. There was a great deal of thought and beauty in this picture; and I was so much attracted by it, that for some time I did not feel inclined to move. At last, compelled by the press of time, I went on, and then I saw of this same Hasenclever at least a dozen more pictures in this room, some of them so full of life, and so rich in composition, that Germany may boast to possess a second Hogarth. There was a schoolmaster, amongst others, teaching singing to ragged boys, whose attitudes and gestures were admirable. Then, again, a company of gentlemen, drinking heartily, and showing in their faces the effect of the wine. Mr. Hasenclever's own portrait was there too, where we see him with a full glass in his hand, almost in the style in which Rubens has painted himself. The possessor of this gallery of pictures certainly has a great taste for the humorous, for besides these pictures of Hasenclever, which more or less bear that character, there was also one by Mr. Biard, a French artist, *The Seizure at the Custom-House*, a very fine and amusing picture. Gallia's *Italian Fiddler* also had found a place here, and well we may congratulate Mr. Ravené, at the acquisition of such a beautiful painting. The "Kunstverein," the German word for Exhibition, has one remarkable picture at present, which represents *Frederic the Great Dining with Voltaire and all his favourite Friends*. The face of the king is turned towards the philosopher, who seems to say something witty, whereupon a flash of light is beaming on the countenance of his royal master, who looks bright, happy, beautiful, and, above all, truly the prince. The whole company are portraits, which enhances greatly the value of the picture. It is done by Adolph Menzel. The Kunstverein will have it engraved in order to give it to the members, who are supporters of the Institution; but in sale it will not be to be had for some years to come. The new bank notes issued by the Russian Government are very fine, and done by the first artists, to prevent fraud. They have a cross in the centre, and the word Gott in each, to show, one may suppose, that it is religious to have paper money.

VARIETIES.

Popular Education.—The education of the people—at least so far as platform oratory is concerned—appears to be making progress in Sheffield. Last week alone a *soirée*, in aid of the Mechanics' Library, was held in the far-famed Cutlers' Hall, which was attended by Earl Fitzwilliam, the mayor, the vicar, and many other local celebrities; and a meeting also took place of the supporters of the People's College. The Mechanics' Library was founded, thirty years since, by the venerable poet Montgomery; and another Sheffield gentleman, named Ward; and from the last statement of its affairs it appears that it has accumulated during its long career 8000 volumes of books, and now boasts of 600 members. Works subversive of the Christian religion are excluded, and it was with some difficulty that Mr. Montgomery enforced the operation of this rule a few years since.

Literary Testimonial.—The subscription commenced in Rochdale for a testimonial to Mr. Bright, for his exertions in behalf of free trade, has been brought to a close. The amount was upwards of 5000*l*. After consulting with the hon. member, the committee decided that a library would be an appropriate testimonial.

The case is an elegant and elaborate work of art. A silver plate is affixed to this handsome piece of furniture, with an appropriate inscription. The library consists of more than 1200 volumes.

British Museum Manuscripts.—The manuscript collections have been pronounced by competent judges to be the most numerous, and, probably, the finest in the world. Considerable difficulty arises in the attempt to form a correct estimate of their extent. If we consider each single letter and paper to be a manuscript, as it undoubtedly is, the gross amount will be enormous. But, in many cases, some hundreds of such letters are bound together into one volume; it is evident, therefore, that where the *volumes only* are counted, the actual amount of the *manuscripts* will be very far from being ascertained. As the latter method, however, appears to be that usually employed in large libraries, we have adopted it on the present occasion. So far, then, as we have been enabled to collect from the catalogues, the number of *volumes* at this time amounts to about 34,434.—*Sims's Handbook*.

Village Libraries.—A scheme for the supply of villages and hamlets with books for perusal, on some such plan, we presume, as that for many years practised in Scotland, has been adopted by the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes, at the suggestion of its honorary secretary, Mr. J. Hole, and is about to be put in practice. "Sections of fifty volumes will now be forwarded to any village where twenty-five subscribers at 1*l*. 4*s*. a week, or 1*s*. 6*d*. a quarter, paid in advance, and a librarian, can be found." In Scotland, and also, we presume, in Yorkshire, the libraries are itinerant, so that, when the lot is done with, it is sent elsewhere, and replaced by another.—*The Builder*.

Electric Astronomy.—Arrangements are in progress for establishing an electric communication between the Observatory of Greenwich and that of Brussels, and the Observatory of Brussels is to be placed in communication with those of all parts of Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and Russia.

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£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
20	0 18 2	0 19 2	1 0 3	1 1 5	1 3 8	1 18 2
30	1 2 9	1 5 2	1 6 8	1 8 4	1 10 0	2 10 5
40	1 11 10	1 13 9	1 15 10	1 18 1	2 0 6	3 8 3

Specimen of the Bonuses added to Policies to 1851, to which will be added a prospective Bonus of one per cent. per annum on the sum insured and previously declared Bonuses, in the event of death before December, 1859, and in which prospective Bonus all new insurances on the Profit scale will participate.

Date of Policy.	Sum Insured.	Bonuses.	Amount.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1823	5000	1926 2 4	6926 2 4
1825	2000	770 9 9	2770 9 9
1828	3000	1608 2 4	4608 2 4

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